

IRELAND'S  
LARGEST SELLING  
MONTHLY INTERIORS  
MAGAZINE

# IRELAND'S HOMES INTERIORS & LIVING

IRELAND'S LARGEST SELLING MONTHLY INTERIORS AND LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

*The  
Cosy  
Issue*  
.....  
32 PAGES OF  
INSPIRATION  
& IDEAS

41

Dublin  
Galway  
Coleraine  
Dromore

pages of readers'  
homes & kitchens

**COOKERS**

AT HOME ON THE RANGE

**Gardening**

Cosy in the Garden

**Cookery**

The Marco Pierre White  
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**Travel**

Transylvania & Aran Islands

January 2016





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EXTRA  
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PLEASE TAKE A SEAT



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## COMPETITION WINNER FROM THE NOVEMBER 2015 ISSUE

**1 READER WINS A UNIQUE ONE-OFF  
LUXURY CUSHION BY KATIE LARMOUR.  
TOTAL £149.**

Julie Monaghan, Bangor.

**5 READERS EACH WIN A COPY OF COAST  
BY RACHEL ALLEN FROM HARPER COLLINS.  
TOTAL £125.**

Paul Hewitt, Portadown;  
Andrea Bingham, Ballynahinch;  
Ruth Appleby, Blackrock;  
Geraldine McInerney, Limerick;  
Angela Kiely, Ballincollig.

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# IRELAND'S HOMES INTERIORS & LIVING

**JANUARY 2016**  
NO 247



Looking forward to the New Year, with the excitement and stress of the Christmas holidays behind us, our January issue is packed with lots of inspiration to turn your home into a cosy abode!

The New Year is a time for change, and on the subject of change, Ireland's Homes Interiors & Living Magazine has undergone a few subtle changes. We have added extra food and women's lifestyle pages as well as

updating existing interior features for 2016.

This issue, take a browse through our soft seating feature, with cushions, throws and rugs to finish the look, as well as stylish window dressing ideas and an up-to-date selection of range cookers.

We visit Glasnevin in Dublin to meet Eva and her family in their beautiful Edwardian home, which has been given a quirky modern interior, full of contemporary furniture and colourful rooms. Next we stop at Co. Galway to admire Karen's remarkable cottage, which she has transformed into a light, bright home with décor influenced by her travels. Sarah and Stuart really wanted to stay in Stuart's home town of Dromore, so when they discovered a new housing development with the perfect family home, they just couldn't let the house slip through their fingers.

Our reader's kitchen this month takes us on a journey of discovery through Claire and Neil's stunning kitchen in Coleraine. They not only wanted a modern kitchen, but a traditional one too, so with the help of Woodland Kitchens, their vision became a reality!

Staying in the kitchen, our cookery this issue brings you some dishes off the menu at the Marco Pierre White Steakhouse Bar & Grill in the Park Avenue Hotel, Belfast, which allows you a taster into the world of beautifully crafted meals by the talented Marco Pierre himself!

Destination Ireland takes us to the Aran Islands in the Galway Bay, where the spectacular sights are all but endless. In a different mystical land, we visit Transylvania. You can experience all things Dracula related, but this beautiful Romanian region has a lot more to offer including incredible mountain ranges, stretching hills and breathtaking scenery.

Finally, the whole team at Ireland's Homes Interiors & Living would like to wish all of our readers a very Happy New Year, and remember, if you have a home, or know of someone who has a home, that you would like to see featured in the magazine contact editorial on 028 9147 3979 or email [editorial@ihil.net](mailto:editorial@ihil.net)



**19 YEARS**  
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**\*4,385,445 combined sales to December 2014**

**Ireland's Homes Interiors & Living 4,200,246**

**All Ireland Kitchen Guide 185,199**



# homestyle

An inspirational selection of the latest traditional and contemporary furniture, fabric and accessories for your home.

**Harlequin** Palmetto and Belvedere Velvets range. Wallpaper; Cranes in flight, £58 per roll; Odisha, £52 per roll. Upholstery; Regina £76. Cushions; Odisha £84 per metre. [harlequin.uk.com](http://harlequin.uk.com)





# homestyle

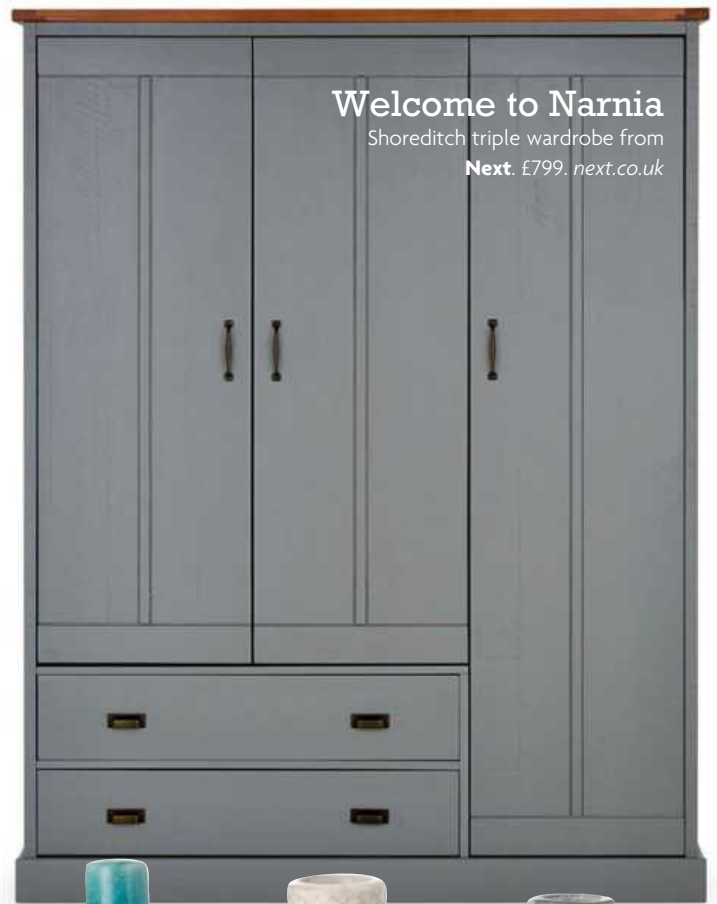
## Grey and Night

Classic telephone from **Amara** in concrete grey and orange dial and chord. £50. [amara.com](http://amara.com)



## Welcome to Narnia

Shoreditch triple wardrobe from **Next**. £799. [next.co.uk](http://next.co.uk)



## You've Been Served

**Kelly Hoppen** grey wood oval platter. £25. [kellyhoppen.com](http://kellyhoppen.com)



## Shaken Not Stirred!

Martini stand lamp from **Natuzzi** in grey. £750. [natuzzi.com](http://natuzzi.com)



## Take a Seat

**Rose & Grey's** vintage Multipl's chair. £125. [roseandgrey.co.uk](http://roseandgrey.co.uk)



## Fancy Vase

RJR **John Rocha** vases set of three. £25. [debenhams.co.uk](http://debenhams.co.uk) [debenhams.ie](http://debenhams.ie)



## Knit Knit

Knitted poof from **Homesense**. £37.99. [homesense.co.uk](http://homesense.co.uk)



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## Picture Perfect

Toucans, 2012 teal framed original limited edition screen print from **Artfinder**. £85. [artfinder.com](http://artfinder.com)



## Paint It

**Mylands** Paints blue print No.50. Price on request. [mylands.co.uk](http://mylands.co.uk)

## Bowl me Over

Classic Krenit bowl from **Rume**. £73. [rume.co.uk](http://rume.co.uk)



## Deep Blue

Irvine three seater sofa from **Made**. £649. [made.com](http://made.com)



## Rock 'n' Roll

Cool The classic Charles Eames style rocking chair in teal from **Cult Furniture**. £69. [cultfurniture.com](http://cultfurniture.com)



## Cushion Love

A stunning organic cotton cushion with modern hand printed geometric design, from **Lo & Behold Store**. £49. [loandbeholdstore.com](http://loandbeholdstore.com)

## Cool Cooking

**Le Creuset** signature cast iron casserole dish in teal. £145. Phone NI 0800 373792, ROI 044800 373792. [lecreuset.co.uk](http://lecreuset.co.uk) [lecreuset.ie](http://lecreuset.ie)





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## Mix it Up

**KitchenAid** artisan 4.8L mixer. €579. [kitchenaid.co.uk](http://kitchenaid.co.uk)

## Funky Flask

The **Normann Copenhagen** Geo thermos flask is a contemporary and stylish way to hold warm or cold drinks. £55. [normanncopenhagen.com](http://normanncopenhagen.com)



## Paint it Pretty

Colours Violette mat emulsions paint from **B&Q**. Price on request. [diy.com](http://diy.com)



## Under Rug Swept

Kodari Garland rug from **Kelaty**. £1,067. [kelaty.com](http://kelaty.com)

## Over the Rainbow

Rainbow cushion from **In-Spaces**. £50. [in-spaces.co.uk](http://in-spaces.co.uk)



## Light Up

Butterfly lamp by Matthew Williamson lamp at Debenhams. £80. Euro price on request. Phone ROI 1890 946779 or NI 084 4561 6161. [debenhams.com](http://debenhams.com)  
[debenhams.ie](http://debenhams.ie)



## Oh, Sit Down!

Orson two seater in purple from **Made**. £499. [made.com](http://made.com)





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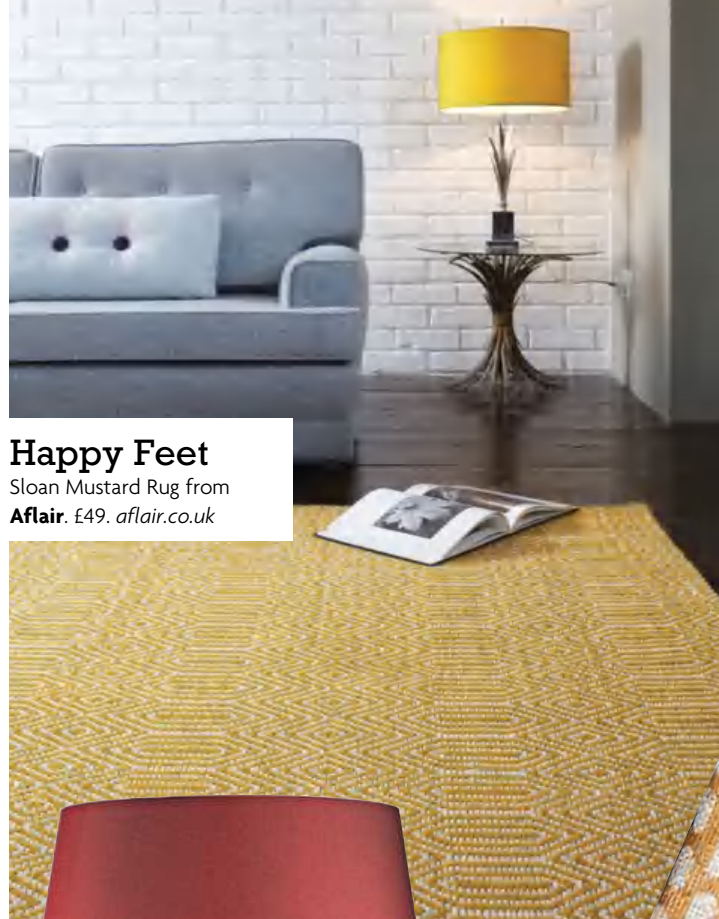
## Take a Seat

Wolseley armchair in Pello burgundy from **Made**. £499. [made.com](http://made.com)



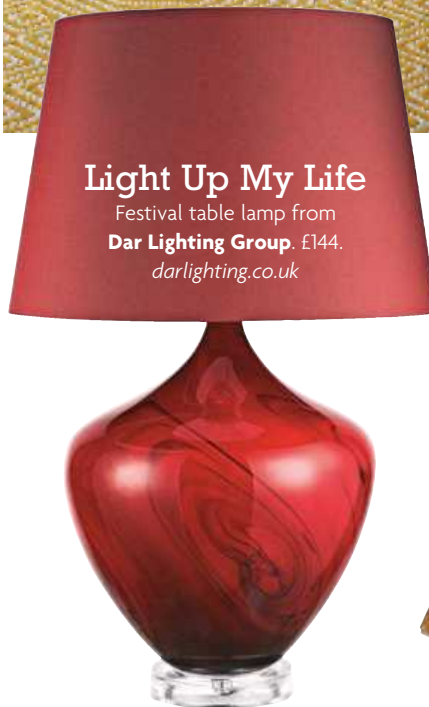
## Happy Feet

Sloan Mustard Rug from **Aflair**. £49. [aflair.co.uk](http://aflair.co.uk)



## Light Up My Life

Festival table lamp from **Dar Lighting Group**. £144. [darlighting.co.uk](http://darlighting.co.uk)



## Shining Light

Moroccan style Disc lamp from **In-Spaces**. £30. [in-spaces.com](http://in-spaces.com)



## Get Comfortable

Foxtail bedstead in red velvet clarit fabric from **Button & Sprung**. £675. [buttonandsprung.com](http://buttonandsprung.com)



## It's a Date!

Perpetual desk calender from **Clare Loves**. £20.95. [clareloves.co.uk](http://clareloves.co.uk)





## Tiled High

**Tile Mountains** Moments floor and wall tiles. Price on request. [tilemountain.co.uk](http://tilemountain.co.uk)



## Dog Days are Over

Dundridge dog print cushion from **B&Q**. Price on request. [diy.com](http://diy.com)



## Mirror Mirror

Claudette wall mirror from **The Orchard**.  
£175. [theorchardhomeandgifts.com](http://theorchardhomeandgifts.com)



## Linen and Stripes

From the brand creator of Farrow & Ball, this beautiful **Fermoie** fabric is of the utmost quality, Wicker Linen is 100 percent linen and Poulton Stripe is 100 percent cotton. Price on request. [fermoie.com](http://fermoie.com)



## Orange you Lovely?

MONTAO Bottom Drawer in Orange from **Dougan Creations** combines beautiful contemporary looks with everyday practicality. Available in 10 vibrant colours and four styles. From £595. Phone Bangor, 028 9127 1029. [dougancreations.com](http://dougancreations.com)



## Light the Way

Lantern terrarium gem gold from **Oliver Bonas**.  
£30. [oliverbonas.co.uk](http://oliverbonas.co.uk)

## In the Frame

Themba picture frame from **Dassie**. £28.95. [dassie.co.uk](http://dassie.co.uk)





## Light up your Life

Cowboy print table lamp from  
**Indie**. £30. [indie.com.au](http://indie.com.au)



## Painterly Perfection

**Red Lilly** Brights cushion.  
£27.75. [redlilly.co.uk](http://redlilly.co.uk)



## Bed Time

Fontaine Range from Christy at  
**The OUTLET**, Bsnbridge. Price on  
request. [the-outlet.co.uk](http://the-outlet.co.uk)



## Colourful & Cosy

**George** Home Eden watercolour  
floral duvet set. From £10. [george.com](http://george.com)



## Fill it up

Ceramic ombre tea light  
holder from **Berry Red**. £6  
each. [berryred.co.uk](http://berryred.co.uk)

## New York, New York

New York skyline in vibrant watercolour  
from **Artfinder**. £47.50. [artfinder.com](http://artfinder.com)



## GET CRAFTY

It's easy to brighten up an old bedside table or make your favourite chair feel more 'you'. Just a little bit of paint and a quick lick of wax goes a long way. Inside The new **Annie Sloan** Mini Project Pack, you'll find everything you need to create your own Annie Sloan masterpiece. Perfect for small projects like a chair, stool or small table. €43.50. Sterling price on request. [anniesloan.com](http://anniesloan.com)







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**Astrea** modular corner sofa, designed by Studio Roche Bobois.

**Voiles** cocktail table, designed by Maurice Barilone.

**OO** suspension light, designed by Julien Groboz.

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## *Smeg Gives The Iconic FAB Fridge a Functional Makeover*

Having considered today's busy lifestyles, and the tradition of leaving notes on the fridge door, Smeg has streamlined the process with its latest customisable creation. The makeover is the latest in an illustrious line of innovative, limited edition designs for the instantly recognisable appliance. A real blackboard surface is used on the exterior of the fridge so family and friends can unleash some artistic license with chalk that's easy to wipe clean when finished. The fridge itself features a 256-litre gross capacity, with an AA energy rating,



automatic defrost, three adjustable glass shelves, fruit and vegetable container, chrome wine rack and internal ice box. Previous editions of Smeg's FAB28 fridge have included denim and black velvet wraps, as well as collaborations with fashion designer Paul Smith and Champagne house Veuve Clicquot. The FAB28RDBB is priced at £1,499 and is available from Smeg 50s style refrigeration displaying stockists nationwide.

**smeguk.com**

## **Fresh Shower Tray Solutions from Duravit**

Duravit has increased its line-up of showering solutions with the introduction of the Stonetto and P3 Comforts shower trays. Fashioned from two new materials, DuraSolid Q and DuraSolid A, they combine performance with aesthetics and offer an attractive alternative to acrylic. The Stonetto shower tray designed in collaboration with



*Decor 77 Plus. From £3,576.*

EOOS is made using the innovative new cast material DuraSolid Q. With the appearance and feel of natural stone, it is available in White, Sand and Anthracite and is ideal in combination with the OpenSpace B shower enclosure and matching shower accessories. The P3 Comforts shower tray designed by Phoenix Design blends in beautifully with the overall design of the P3 Comforts bathroom range. The design was created with the new DuraSolid A material which offers class B slip-resistance without additional coating. A coordinating shower stool is also available as an accessory and serves as a design object, seat and useful shelf space offering showering comfort and safety.

**For stockists phone 0845 500 7787. [duravit.co.uk](http://duravit.co.uk)**

## *Hotpoint Ultima S Line Washing Machine Wins Award*



Hotpoint, Britain's favourite appliance brand, has been awarded a Designer Kitchen & Bathroom Award for its Ultima S Line washing machine. The Designer Awards reported a record number of entries for 2015, which is judged by experienced and highly respected industry figures, and the Hotpoint Ultima S Line washing machine took the crown for the Innovation in Sustainability category. The new 'A+++40%' energy rated washing machine features Hotpoint's most advanced anti-stain system, Direct Injection Technology, which can remove more than 100 stains at just 20°C, keeping colours and fabrics safe. Additionally, this appliance also boasts Eco Rain Technology, which sprays water onto the top of clothes, rather than filling the drum from the bottom. This technology only uses the optimum amount of energy and water, offering a 20 per cent reduction in water and 50 per cent reduction in energy consumption compared to traditional 10kg 'A+' energy rated washing machines.

**Phone 03448 240 05. [hotpoint.co.uk](http://hotpoint.co.uk)**

*L-R: Host Rachel Riley, Stephen Hayes, Category Controller UK & Ireland, Sponsor Linda Phouthasak, Marketing Manager for InSinkErator, Kevin Carr, Sales Manager ISE.*





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Original Style Tileworks metal effect metallic steel linear mosaic tiles.

## Original Style Adds Over 60 New Tileworks Products

The Tileworks collection from Original Style, which already includes a large selection of contemporary tiles for walls and floors, has received a number of brand new additions as well as extensions to existing products to provide a more comprehensive offering. Some of the new products including contemporary planks feature a subtle metallic effect. Whilst they have a contemporary semi-polished finish, they also have a rusted edge effect. There are also marble effect tiles in a range of grey hues offering an alternative to the usual bright white, as well as individual matt glazed porcelain brick tiles in five colours, designed to look and feel like traditional bricks and textured porcelain wall tiles featuring a subtle undulating effect which looks its best when lit at an angle. Extensions to existing products include Bianco Panazetto Natural. Made from ceramic, this is a lighter and thinner version of an existing tile, chosen to aid more convenient installation. Metal effect linear mosaics have been added to an existing product range, providing a more comprehensive offering for a uniform finish on walls and floors.

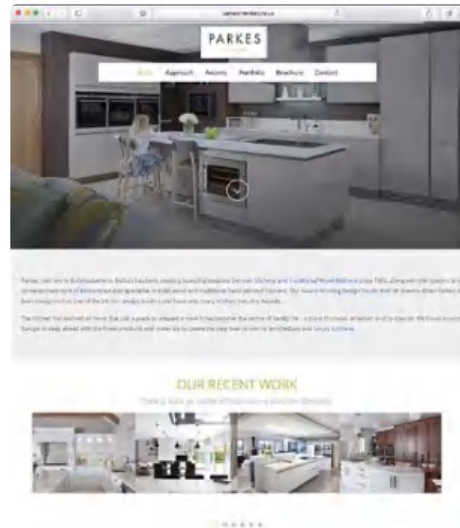
[originalstyle.com](http://originalstyle.com)

## Parkes Interiors Launches New Website

Parkes Interiors is inviting customers to explore its new website, which has been designed to provide the ultimate user friendly experience with improved navigation and functionality throughout, allowing customers to experience what a kitchen from them might look like. The focus for the redesign was to improve the mobile responsive element says Brian Parkes, 'From our market research we have discovered that more and more people are using mobile devices to research and websites now need to be designed with this in mind. Our web developer worked with us throughout the design so we can optimise this opportunity whilst clients still are offered a good browsing experience using richer online content. Research suggests in the initial phase of research clients are looking to be inspired by images; Parkes Interiors have an extensive portfolio section that only uses their clients kitchens. 'It is important to show how great design and products work in a real environment and that is what we aiming to achieve,' adds Brian. The site benefits from allowing users to share content across

Facebook, Twitter and other social media outlets. The site is regularly updated with new portfolio images and has news and events section to keep browsers up-to-date with regular developments.

[parkesinteriors.co.uk](http://parkesinteriors.co.uk)



## Eurostove has the X-Factor

With this season's X-Factor in full swing, viewers were recently treated to a sneaky peek inside the judge's houses as Simon, Cheryl, Rita and Nick whisked their six-chair challenge winners away for another battle round before announcing their final three acts live at Wembley. For judge Nick Grimshaw, who was joined by music producer and mentor Mark Ronson, it was a chance to chill out in a beautiful Cotswolds retreat that was in fact interior designed by none other than supermodel Kate Moss. With such great taste in both fashion and interiors, it was no

surprise that Kate designed the living area with a cosy Eurostove wood burner as its focus, perfect for relaxing weekends in the country. This star of the show was the Jide Décor 77 Plus wood burning stove, which is made to order in your choice of black, brown or grey steel and can be freestanding just like in the TV show, or inset. Additional options include double-sided versions in 820mm or 1050mm sizes as well as wall-hung, with a wood store or closed combustion perfect for new airtight homes.

Phone 01934 750500. [eurostove.co.uk](http://eurostove.co.uk)





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# *Sleeping* Spaces

In 2016, make sure your bedroom is a stylish haven in which to unwind and relax at any time of the day or night.



## On The Side

Alana bedside table from **Made**. £79.  
Phone 0845 5576888. [made.com](http://made.com)

## Stylish Storage

Kelston glass jewellery box from **One World Trading Company**. Price on request. Phone 0208 9742211. [one.world](http://one.world)





## STYLE STEAL

### Mixed Prints

Tambourine wallpaper and fabric mixed with Mosaica fabric on the bedspread and cushions adds interest and personality to this bedroom design by **Sanderson**. Prices on request. [sanderson.co.uk](http://sanderson.co.uk)



## EXPERT OPINION

**Lindy Clarke & Sara Thompson of Thompson Clarke**

**Q** What are the colours and styles of bedrooms in 2016?

**A** When it comes to bedrooms this season, go for washed-out linens paired with deep burgundy, mixed with a pop of cinnamon. Headboards should be really dramatic, so think about beautiful shapes and ornate studwork. Most importantly, make sure your bed is as big as it can be!

[thompsonclarke.com](http://thompsonclarke.com)



## Newsflash!

**Designers Guild** have launched their first ever exclusive online and in-store furniture collection. The bedroom furniture collection has been designed with style and individuality in mind. Whether you are looking for a fully upholstered bed, headboard, chair, small sofa or ottoman, they have created an essential collection to inspire you.

[designersguild.com](http://designersguild.com)



## Moodboard

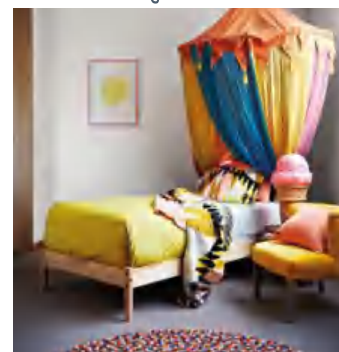
### Our favourite things online this month...

Sleep soundly with these decorative ideas and bedside essentials.



Cool Lighting!

Dreamy Colours!



### Noted

Keep a notebook by the bed to sleep soundly and remember all your thoughts in the morning!

### Keeping Time

Whether a modern, sleek timepiece, retro or a more traditional design, invest in a bedside alarm clock.

### Looking Good!

Alameda Mirror from **The French Bedroom Company**. £220. Phone 08456 448022. [frenchbedroomcompany.co.uk](http://frenchbedroomcompany.co.uk)



### Coloured Lights

Bianca pendant from **Dar Lighting**. £64.20. [darlighting.co.uk](http://darlighting.co.uk)





# Bathing Spaces

Take a look at some of these stylish and practical pieces for your bathroom, while our bathroom expert this issue offers advice on smaller bathing spaces!

## Hang them up!

An elm storage ladder, perfect for hanging towels, ties or scarfs, from **Orchard Furniture**. £149. [orchardfurniture.co.uk](http://orchardfurniture.co.uk)



Bath-side lounging  
Romantic sixties style leather  
armchair from **Natuzzi**. Colour  
is periwinkle. £1,080. Phone  
01322 312550 for local Irish  
stockists. [natuzzi.co.uk](http://natuzzi.co.uk)



## STYLE STEAL

A classic beauty, yet impressively functional - the Radiance slider from **Matki**. The innovative low profile top track incorporates super smooth running roller technology with a soft, auto-assisted sliding door for a whisper quiet closure time and again. The enclosure comes complete with integrated 50mm slimline acrylic capped shower tray available in white, pergamon and piano black. From £1,257. Phone Beggs & Partners, Ballymena 028 2564 5121, Belfast 028 9023 5791, Lisburn 028 9262 1133, Newtownards 028 9182 6680, Maghera 028 7964 5599, Portadown 028 3839 2000. [matki.co.uk](http://matki.co.uk)

## EXPERT OPINION

**Martin Carroll,**  
Managing Director, Duravit UK



**Q** What is your advice for anyone with a smaller bathroom?

**A** Having a small bathroom should definitely not stop you from creating a stylish and practical room. In general, we recommend using light colours and warm lighting solutions to create a minimalist bathroom. Additionally we would also suggest choosing a complete bathroom series with uniform clear forms, such as our new range P3 Comforts by Phoenix Design. You can select from dozens of sizes and models to create an individual bathroom, regardless of the size of the room.



### Newsflash!

**Mira Showers** celebrates the introduction of the Mira Elite QT electric shower, exclusive across Ireland. The Elite QT is the most advanced pumped electric available and is 75 per cent quieter than any other pumped shower - without sacrificing on power! Price on request. [mirashowers.co.uk](http://mirashowers.co.uk)

### I'm Blue!

Wall mirror in acrylic blue from **Oliver Bonas**. £55. [oliverbonas.co.uk](http://oliverbonas.co.uk)

### Dry me

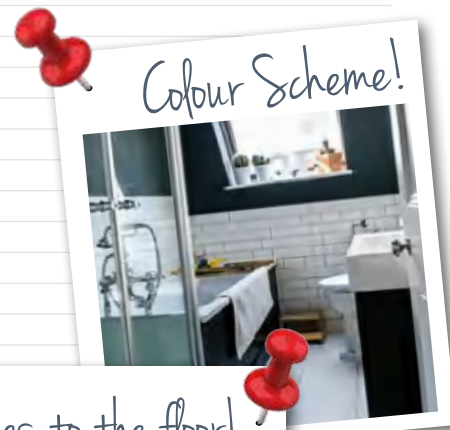
Logo towels from **House of Fraser** in amethyst. £12. [houseoffraser.co.uk](http://houseoffraser.co.uk)



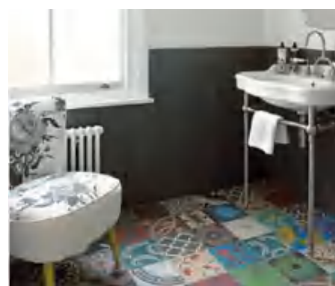
## Moodboard

### Our favourite things online this month...

A few things we are loving from [Houzz.co.uk](http://Houzz.co.uk); A cool colour scheme as seen on [aspiringkennedy.com](http://aspiringkennedy.com) and funky flooring as seen on [leivers.com](http://leivers.com)



### Eyes to the floor!



### Light the way

Stylish geometric Peng light from **Out there Interiors**. Price on request. [outthereinteriors.com](http://outthereinteriors.com)



### Annie Sloan

chalk paint is perfect for upcycling or changing any furniture you already have. It's really easy to use and comes in a range of colours! From £18.95. [anniesloan.com](http://anniesloan.com)







Vogue midi  
wood-burning  
stove from **Stovax**.  
Price on request.  
[stovax.com](http://stovax.com)



Belokan rustic coffee table  
from **Puji**. £585. [puji.com](http://puji.com)

Broste pillar candle  
with Birch bark veneer  
and glitter from  
**The Scandinavian  
Shop**. £7.20.  
[scandinavianshop.co.uk](http://scandinavianshop.co.uk)



# Ski Style

Create a cool but cosy cabin feel with these  
selections and you will feel as though  
you're relaxing in an Alpine retreat!





Bronte lambswool Prince of Wales check cushion in grey from **Cotswold Trading**. 40x40cm. £45. [cotswoldtrading.com](http://cotswoldtrading.com)

Caddington patchwork cream, grey and blue cushion from **Colours at B&Q**. 43x43cm. £14. [diy.com](http://diy.com)

**Sandberg** Skog Collection. Wallpaper: Linne 216-56 £60 per roll. Phone 0800 731 9622 for stockists. [sandbergwallpaper.com](http://sandbergwallpaper.com)



Wilderness six arm chandelier from **Alexander & Pearl**. £475. [alexanderandpearl.co.uk](http://alexanderandpearl.co.uk)

Magnus brown leather armchair from **Alexander & Pearl**. £1,115. [alexanderandpearl.co.uk](http://alexanderandpearl.co.uk)



Bring the outdoors indoors with natural wood and woollen finishes.



Beautiful reindeer rug from **The French Bedroom Company**, extra large size and premium quality. £140. [frenchbedroomcompany.co.uk](http://frenchbedroomcompany.co.uk)



# *in the* Know

Patricia McGinnis from Maven offers some expert interior tips for your home in 2016.



[localmilkblog.com](http://localmilkblog.com)

*'A cast iron skillet and a camera'*

Photographer and stylist Beth Kirby's blog 'Local Milk' is a true feast for the senses. Recipes like 'Vegan Rose and Choc Chip Spelt Waffles' are shown off with the most eye-wateringly beautiful photography. Whilst you're there, take a peek at her portfolio, it's just sublime!

## *3 of the best...* Sofas



Mags from £1,818.



Rest from £2,295.



Hackney £1,559.

(All available at **Maven**.)

### **Expert Tip:**

Your house can feel a bit empty once the tree and decorations have been taken down. This is a perfect time however, to take a fresh look at your home. Here a few things you can do to turn January into a really productive month:

- Have a wonky tap or a bulb that needs replaced? Make a to-do list and work out which things you can remedy yourself and which ones you need help with. Then action it all.
- Have a piece of furniture you're not sure about? Try moving it around or into a different room. If you're still not feeling it then why not list it on Ebay or Gumtree and be done with it?
- With plenty of sales on in January, this is the ideal time to order a bigger ticket item and scoop up a bargain.



## *What's On...*

Keep your eyes peeled for Ken Bartley's Super 8 exhibition at Framwerk Gallery on East Belfast's Newtownards Road. Open just over a year ago, Framwerk is shaping up to be one of Belfast's edgiest gallery spaces. They also offer a superb picture framing service too.



### **MUST HAVE!**

**Noc Light £109 from Maven**

Designed by Smith Matthias, the Noc light has a faceted aluminum shade and a universal clamp meaning it can be used in a multitude of places, think table tops, shelves and headboards. The light is a winning combination of style and practicality and I can definitely think of a few places I'll be using this around my own home.



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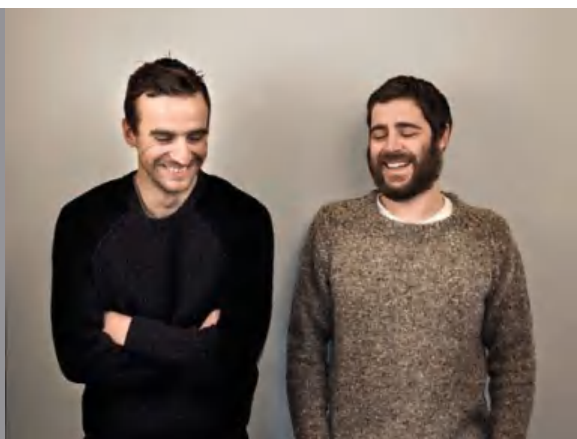
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# me&him&you

me&him&you is a design company made up of Ronan Dillon and Peter O'Gara with a focus on designing spaces, posters, books, websites and much more, as well as their range of city screen prints.

'We both studied design in IADT in Dun Laoghaire, and we were two years apart so we really got to know each other from college surf-trips,' explains Ronan. 'We started the business five years ago; it was really by chance! Peter was thinking about a Masters in the UK with the intention of starting a studio down the line and I suggested we start one now. It was the middle of the recession so a lot of people laughed at us and even told us not to do it, but that was one of the most exciting times - the set-up!'

They found a beat up building on South Great Georges Street and put a lot of love into it, to make it their own and exactly what they needed. 'We were even growing vegetables on the roof at one stage!' laughs Ronan.

In 2013 they produced six 'City Prints'; screen prints inspired by the cities of the world. 'On the launch they were shared over 13,000 times overnight. We never expected to be so popular, but I guess they resonate with people and have a unique concept that people like. We then had people contacting us from all over the world asking us to complete their cities!' says Ronan.

'They are modern, simple monochrome prints which suit a variety of interiors and we are now on 23 cities and counting, with a few special ones launching in the next few weeks and months.'

The guys spend a lot of time working on and developing their own products, such as the city screen prints, but as well as this they work with clients - ranging from individual artists and small businesses to some of the global social media companies. 'Some of our recent work includes developing the identity for the very first Metropolis Festival, which was a very rewarding process,' says Ronan.

'Our very first project was with the Fringe Festival. We took over a neglected lane just down from our studio and transformed it in the middle of the night with rocking chairs, planting and an old piano. It was really about using design to show how you can make the city a better place to live,' adds Ronan.

'Another interesting project we worked on included putting 10 bill board size blackboards around Dublin City and we then invited the public to share their fears with each other. Therapy on a city-scale.'

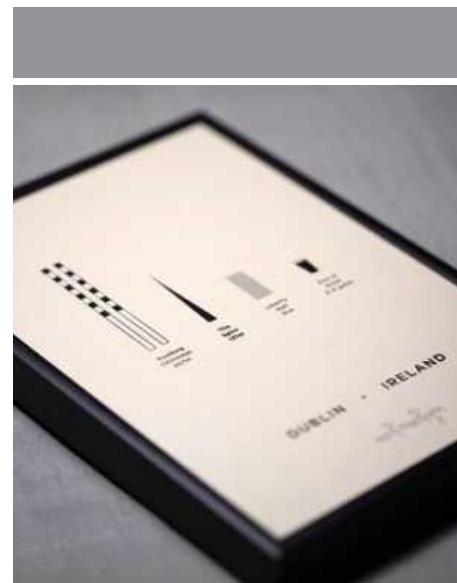
Day to day, the guys have a screen print workshop in their back room, so they can be found here working on prints, and when they aren't they are designing onscreen or out meeting people.

'Our proudest achievement to date is probably being contacted to work on products for a number of art institutions in the United States, such as SFMoma, Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston and the Philip Johnson Glass House. We also just had our first exhibition in Hong Kong in February which was a great success!'

So what do Ronan and Peter have planned for me&him&you in the future? 'We have some really exciting projects coming up over the next year here in Dublin, both our own projects and with new clients. We want to stay

small and to create meaningful design; Seeing how design work can help small businesses grow can be very rewarding. With our own products we are just about to launch a postcard book of 21 city designs. We have also added four different sizes A5, A4, A3 and SRA2 to our print range which are being stocked in stores around the world.'

**meandhimandyou.com**



## COMPETITION

Ireland's Homes Interiors & Living magazine along with me&him&you are offering one lucky reader the chance to win an SRA2 print of the city of your choice from their collection. Prize value €60.

### How to enter

Answer the following question:  
How many times were the city prints shared on their launch in 2013?

Send your answer, name, address, email and phone number marked **me&you&him Competition** to Ireland's Homes Interiors & Living magazine, PO Box 42, Bangor, County Down, BT19 7AD or Ashgrove House, Kill Avenue, Dun Laoghaire, County Dublin or enter online at: [www.ihil.net](http://www.ihil.net)

*Entries must be received no later than 5pm on Friday 1st January 2016.  
One entry per household. One separate email/postcard for each competition.  
Judge's decision is final. No cash alternative. Prizes are -non-transferable.*

*If you would like to receive our monthly newsletter please include your email address with your entry.*



# EMPORIUM

## INTERIORS

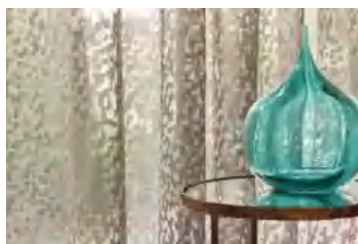
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Emporium Interiors, situated in Kilrea, offers a unique experience housing a modern interior shop in a lovely historic building. Our interior design showroom offers our clients' room sets showcasing exquisite curtains, pelmets, roman blinds, lighting, wallpaper and furniture displays. Why not avail of our Interior Design Service, Tracey Jane, if you need help at home or in store to select a colour palette, internal fixtures and fittings, or help with furniture layouts and of course choosing your important curtains, fabrics and soft furnishings. Tracey Jane also works closely with kitchen and bathroom designers at Ballycastle Homecare Interiors to provide a complete design service for your home in the new design studio.

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The first interiors show of the year is imm Cologne, and as always they will present a unique variety of interior design ideas for every room, every style and every requirement. There will be everything from the basics right through to top end designer items and luxury furnishings, self-assembly furniture and beyond. It also serves as the perfect platform for up and coming designers. At the imm Cologne, the range of market-ready products you will find concentrated under one roof is unique in terms of its depth and breadth. Business owners can also find ideas on how to boost business, as well as established solutions.

**imm Cologne will take place from 18-24 January in Cologne, Germany.**  
[imm-cologne.com](http://imm-cologne.com)



# Round Up!

A look at two of the biggest interiors fairs of the year.



The internationally renowned interiors fair in Frankfurt, Ambiente, takes place once again this year and is set to be as big as ever. This must attend event is the leading consumer goods fair for the Giving, Living and Dining sectors. It serves as a source of inspiration for all retailers, showcasing the market's latest innovations. Buyers from furniture and furnishing stores, boutiques, galleries and lifestyle shops will find the most fabulous products. A spectacular presentation of the latest trends in four themed scenarios: 'artisanal gardening', 'futuristic couture', 'functional simplicity' and 'composing freedom' which are each inspired by the latest directions in design, art, fashion and architecture. Last year boasted more than 4,800 exhibitors at the show with over 135,000 trade visitors from over 150 countries world wide. The world's leading interiors fair is also distinguished by a wide variety of events, promotional programmes for young designers and companies, trend presentations and award ceremonies.

**Ambiente will take place from 12-16 February 2016 in Frankfurt, Germany.**  
[ambiente.messefrankfurt.com](http://ambiente.messefrankfurt.com)



Opening Ambiente.





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# Harvey Norman

With 14 locations nation wide and a huge portfolio of brands, Harvey Norman is one of Ireland's largest homeware retailers and their new flagship store located on Boucher Road, Belfast is a credit to all they have on offer.



**H**arvey Norman Boucher Road is a new concept Home Centre for the group, boasting an impressive 61,000 sq ft of split level retail space, making it the largest Harvey Norman store in the whole of Ireland.

The opening of this new flagship store has created 65 new jobs in the Belfast area, with Harvey Norman employing almost 900 staff across all of their 14 Irish locations.

Inside this state-of-the art showroom you will find everything you need for your home. As well as a showcase of what the Harvey Norman brand has to offer, there are also concession retailers from Colortrend, Matt Britton Flooring, Signature Curtains and blinds, with many other high end brands available such as Ralph Lauren, Jamie Oliver, Farrow & Ball, Ted Baker, Laura Ashley, and much more.

'This store has everything for creating or renovating a perfect home. I think our customers will be delighted with the scale and presentation of the store; there is nothing

like this in Belfast!,' comments CEO Harvey Norman, Blaine Callard. 'Our stores in Northern Ireland have been some of our fastest growing globally during the last year, so it's clear that people love shopping with us,' he adds.

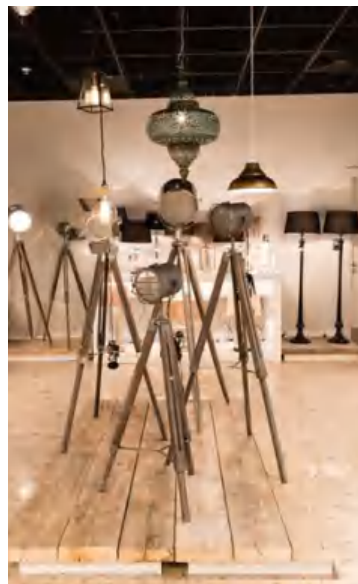
As you enter the Home Centre on the first floor you will find all you need for the walls in your home, with a huge selection of paint and wallpaper catalogues available to look through from many different brands; you can marvel at the array of curtain fabrics available across the brands, including ready-made, as well as blinds, tie backs, poles and accessories. Further into the store you will find plenty of bedroom inspiration as well as mirrors, lamps, clocks and artwork for all areas of the home, including original pieces of artwork from artists all over the world. Upstairs showcases various dining and living options, alongside home office, carpets, wooden and vinyl floors, and array of small decorative and gift options. As well as it being a one-stop shop for all home furnishing

needs, there is also a 140 seated restaurant for customers to enjoy as part of their shopping experience.

Store Manager Eamon McFadden explains, 'This store has Belfast's largest sofa, furniture and bedding range with over 90 sofas on display on the shop floor and thousands of combinations to choose from and over 300 different bedding options. From custom dining sets to a top class nursery section, the Boucher Road store has everything for the home under one roof!

**Harvey Norman Home Centre**  
**Balmoral Plaza, 24 Boucher Road, Belfast**  
**Phone: 028 9038 9600.**  
**For other locations visit:**  
**harvey-norman.co.uk harveynorman.ie**

**Opening Hours**  
**Mon & Tues: 9.30am-7pm**  
**Wed to Fri: 9.30am-9pm**  
**Sat: 9.30am-6pm**  
**Sun: 1pm-6pm**





## ESSENTIAL CANDLEHOLDERS



Applicata Blossom candleholders from **The Scandinavian Shop**. £35. [scandinavianshop.co.uk](http://scandinavianshop.co.uk)



Concrete candleholders from **Mia Fleur**. From £12. [miafleur.com](http://miafleur.com)



Coloured concrete candleholder in curry and mint from **An Artful Life**. £15.50. [anartfullife.co.uk](http://anartfullife.co.uk)

# Natural Lighting

Here is a stylish selection of candleholders to help decorate your living spaces.



Belgravia pair of square candleholders from **Within**. £79.50. [withinhom.com](http://withinhom.com)



Three brass candleholder from **April and the Bear**. £16.30. [aprilandthebear.com](http://aprilandthebear.com)



Copper candleholder from **Berry Red**. £25. [berryred.co.uk](http://berryred.co.uk)



Mosaico pink candleholders from **PUJI**. £19. [puji.com](http://puji.com)



Stelton Naked candleholder from **Black by Design**. £79.97. [black-by-design.co.uk](http://black-by-design.co.uk)



Kosta Boda Connect candlestick (with tealight holders) from **The Scandinavian Shop**. £91. [scandinavianshop.co.uk](http://scandinavianshop.co.uk)



**littala** Nappula white candleholder. £24. [cloudberryliving.co.uk](http://cloudberryliving.co.uk)

# Please take a Seat

After a long day there's nothing like sinking into a comfortable sofa or your favourite armchair. Whether traditional or contemporary, slouchy or sleek, there is a style to suit you.

Charlotte armchairs in Aztec Fretwork, £790; Iggy three seat sofa in Vintage Lattice, £1,690 and Georgette footstool in Glazed Linen, £600, all from [sofa.com](http://sofa.com).



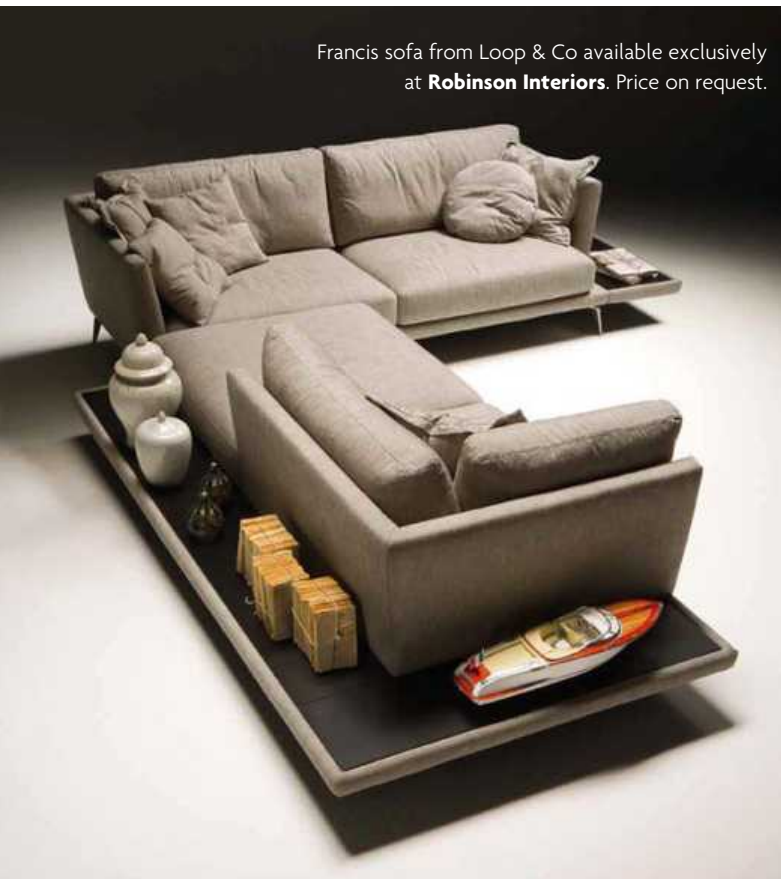




# Sofas

Whichever sofa you choose for your home interior, just make sure comfort is a top priority!

Francis sofa from Loop & Co available exclusively at **Robinson Interiors**. Price on request.



## CHOOSING YOUR SOFA

**With so many styles and finishes to choose from, here are a few points to consider when selecting your sofa:**

**Size:** If you have a bigger living room, you'll need to decide exactly how much of the room you want your couch to fill. Do you want to include other couches or chairs? Do you want a coffee table? If so, a simple sofa, or one with a slight L-shape is probably the best fit. If you're looking for a sofa that will be the focal point of your living room, look for rounder couch shapes that take up a bit more room and provide a lot of seating. If you have a small living room, odds are you'll need a smaller couch. With less space, any couch or sofa is going to be in the spotlight, so it's important to pick something that is practical, but is also of a strong design that carries and complements the rest of the space.

**Shape:** A clean L-shape one is great for open areas that need to be divided, such as separating the living room from the dining room. A rounder shape is a bit more conducive for a smaller space meant to serve as a gathering area for groups of people, but could also be perfect for a media room. If you want to implement more chairs and tables in your living room, a chaise or a daybed could be a good alternative to a traditional couch. It still provides seating for several people, but is compact and can work as a more sophisticated version of the futon.

**Upholstery:** Aesthetic is important, but functionality is key when it comes to choosing a material for your sofa. For example, velvet won't be suitable if you have pets or small children! Leather – particularly in darker colors – is consistently in style, generally wears well with age, and can be fairly easy to clean. For those who love a fabric sofa, but need it to be hardwearing, consider having your couch upholstered in an outdoor fabric which resist stains, water and fading from the sun.

**Style:** If your home is sleek and modern, pick something that reflects that in clean lines and dramatic colours. If it's an eclectic mix of colours and designs, a couch that combines several styles could be the perfect expression of your taste. A classically structured sofa in a durable and neutral fabric will stand the test of time in traditional homes.



The Tempo sofa from **Natuzzi** consists of several separate modules that come together to form linear, corner and peninsular arrangements. Shown in Yellow Da Vinci leather. From £2,850.

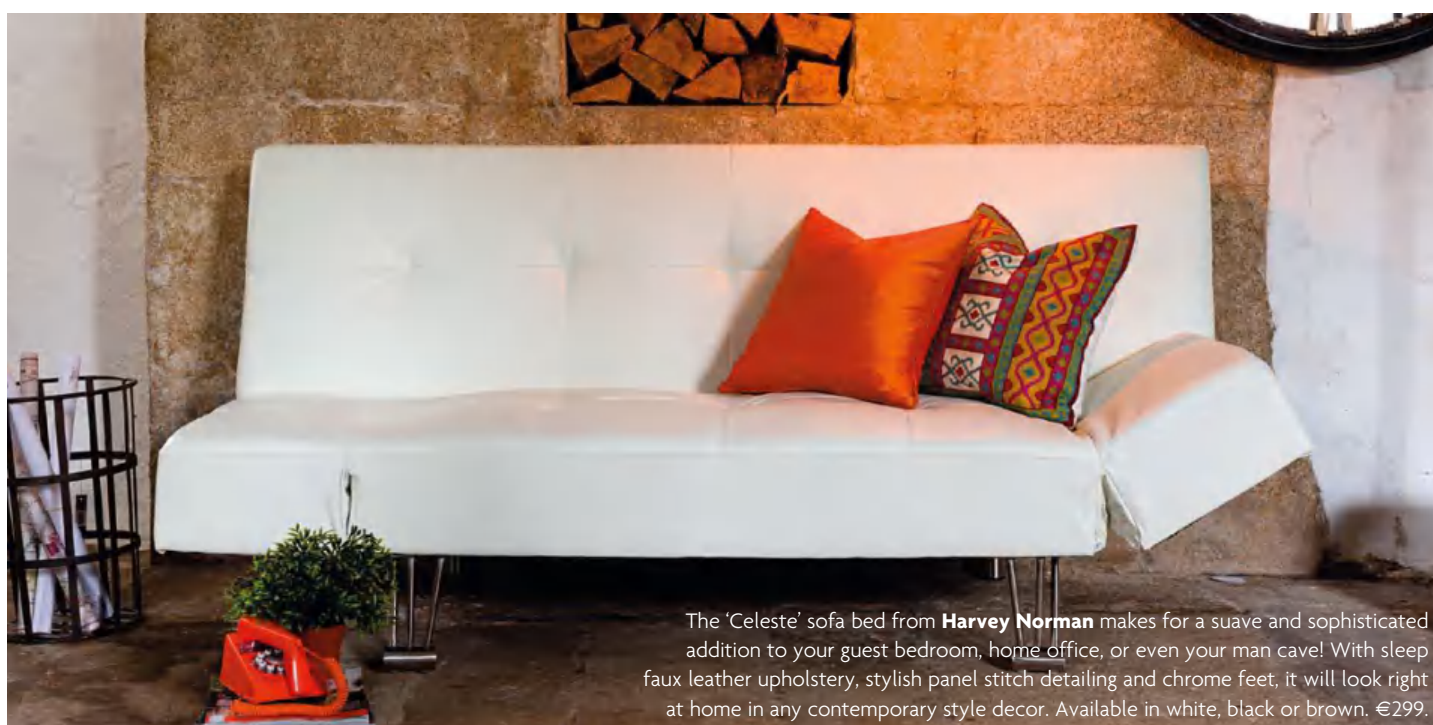




Bailey velvet maxi sofa from **DFS**. £1,599.



**Roche Bobois** Long Island velvet sofa. €4,740.



The 'Celeste' sofa bed from **Harvey Norman** makes for a suave and sophisticated addition to your guest bedroom, home office, or even your man cave! With sleep faux leather upholstery, stylish panel stitch detailing and chrome feet, it will look right at home in any contemporary style decor. Available in white, black or brown. €299.



**Neptune** Eva sofa in Fox, £2,175/€2,740. Bespoke upholstered pouffé made to order, from £700, euro price on request.





Hermione sofa in red Designers Guild velvet from **Darlings of Chelsea**. £1,999.



Chloe button back sofa from **Sweetpea & Willow**. £795.



Solatium is from the B&B Italia Apta collection at **Minima**. Solatium is one of the new classic seating systems that include 140 different elements. This element allows you to design the sofa to your specific taste and requirements. With different options for the base in either painted finish or chromed finish. €9,960.



The Austin 3-seater sofa from **Meadows & Byrne** embodies the richness of natural leather and superior comfort. This versatile style will feature well in traditional and contemporary interiors. £1,438.



Beautiful brown leather Chesterfield from **Rose and Grey** with aged distressed leather and hardwood frame. £1,550.

# Armchairs

Make sure you take the time to find the right armchair for whatever room or nook you wish to fill in your house.



The Betty armchair is **Sofa.com's** take on the mid-century cocktail chair. It's distinctive silhouette boasts a curved, padded back, rounded edges, a plump seat and no arms. £490.







Swivel armchair from  
Loop & Co available  
exclusively from  
**Robinson Interiors.**  
Price on request.



Lime Chloe armchair  
from **WITHIN.** £295.



1958 Armchair Clover from  
**Oliver Bonas.** £585.

**Roche Bobois** Badiane  
armless leather chair. €2,320.



Heart of House Somerton Fabric  
Loveseat from **Argos.** £549.99

## COMFORTABLE SEATING



From **Minima**, the Antropus armchair, designed back in the 50s by Marco Zanuso was used with new material with which he had been experimenting with. The completely upholstered armchair is distinguished by its depth, which makes a large and comfortable seat.



Greta Chair from **Emporium Interiors**. From £680.





## TOP TIP

With so many styles and finishes to choose from, here are a few points to bear in mind when choosing your armchair...

- When picking an armchair for a more formal or traditional living room, try matching a pattern from elsewhere in your home.
- Match a pair of statement armchairs for a dramatic effect. That said, don't feel two armchairs have to match!
- You can't go wrong with a classic leather design. It will age beautifully and will serve you well for years.
- To make an impact in a room, choose a statement armchair such as the Egg chair, an iconic designs which will never go out of fashion.
- Armchairs are unlikely to be the first piece of furniture you buy for a room. If this is the case, consider the styles and colours of your existing pieces.

**1 Neptune** Olivia armchair in Cranberry from £860/€1,300, Brompton floor lamp £335/€465, Henley table from £795/€1,100. **2 Sika** from **Brabbu**. Price on request. **3 The Marlene** armchair from **Natuzzi** is the classic bergère, inspired by nineteenth-century style, characterised by classical, simply and familiar shape. It is very comfortable thanks to its deep seat and to the welcoming backrest, thin and slim. It is embellished by refined details like the trim or the curl on the armrest and on the high and welcoming backrest. Available in leather, microfiber or removable fabric. Wooden feet. £1,100.



# Footstools

While a footstool offers greater comfort, it is also a stylish addition within any living room.



Red footstool from **DMC Design**. Price on request.



**M&S** Harper Footstool in Mantaro. £279.



A fully-buttoned footstool with dimensions of 120cm (width), 120cm (depth) and 35cm (height) the Stringer from **Distinctive Chesterfields** is fast proving a big hit with fans of the Chesterfield style. £799.



**Made** Lulu footstool honeycomb weave. £179.



The circular Charlotte footstool from **Living It Up** is the perfect complement for any room, beautifully echoing an Art Deco influence. Each footstool is handmade and thoroughly padded to ensure comfort. £329.





The Doughball footstool from **Loaf**. £395.

## STOCKISTS

### A

#### **Argos**

argos.co.uk

### B

#### **Brabbu**

Atelier Design,  
Belfast 07740 987833.  
brabbu.com

### D

#### **Darlings of Chelsea**

0207 3715745.  
darlingsofchelsea.co.uk

#### **DFS**

Belfast 028 90687472,  
Derry 028 71310950,  
Cork 021 4359306,  
Dublin 01 6404232.

dfs.co.uk

dfs.ie

#### **Distinctive Chesterfields**

01484 663294.  
distinctivechesterfields.com

#### **DMC**

Belfast 028 9581 8029.  
dmcdesign.org.uk

### E

#### **Emporium Interiors**

Kilrea 028 2954 0119.  
emporiumni.com

### H

#### **Harvey Norman**

harveynorman.co.uk  
harveynorman.ie

### L

#### **Living It Up**

0116 2695960.  
livingitup.co.uk

#### **Loaf**

0845 4680527.  
loaf.com

### M

#### **Made**

03442 571888.  
made.com

#### **Meadows & Byrne**

meadowsandbyrne.com

#### **Minima**

Dublin 01 6337716.  
minima.ie

#### **M&S**

marksandspencer.com

### N

#### **Natuzzi**

01322 312550 (s).  
natuzzi.co.uk

#### **Neptune**

neptune.com

### O

#### **Oliver Bonas**

0208 9740110.  
oliverbonas.com

### R

#### **Robinson Interiors**

Belfast 028 9068 3838.  
robinsoninteriors.com

#### **Roche Bobois**

Dublin 01 6531650.  
roche-bobois.com

#### **Rose & Grey**

0161 9268763.  
roseandgrey.co.uk

### S

#### **Sofa.com**

0207 371231.  
sofa.com

#### **Sweetpea & Willow**

0345 2572627.  
sweetpeaandwillow.com

### W

#### **WITHIN**

0207 0872900.  
withinhom.com

(s) = PHONE FOR STOCKISTS



# Extra Comfort

They're easy to change and can be added and taken away with the change of seasons - cushions, throws and rugs are the easiest way to add warmth and interest.

Cushions and throws from the Múrmur Collection by **Bedeck Home**. Prices on request.





## CUSHIONS THROWS & RUGS



**Neptune** Camilla cushion in millet and otter. £45/€77.

Italian velvet Wisley cushion in Blossom from **sofa.com**. £40.

**Villa Nova** Xander Collection. Prices on request.



RHYMIC cool, hand woven cashmere cushion by **Jude Cassidy**. £190.



**DFS** Angelic pattern scatter cushion. Available in five colours. €25.



Birds and Beasts with Harris Tweeds from **Vanessa Arbuthnott**. All £68/mtr.

Lambswool throw from **Oscar & Eve**. £120.



**Neptune** Cley 140x200cm navy stripe throw from Browsers. £135/€195.







Cushions and Beanbags made from a selection of fabrics from **Levande**. Prices on request.



Thistle velvet cushion from **Harvey Norman**. €59.



**M&S** Floral Penny Cushion. £19.50.



Cushions on floor made from a selection of **Sanderson** Papavera fabrics. Prices on request.



**Jane Churchill**  
Cushions (from left):  
Calyon, lime J855F-19  
Maracatu, lime green  
J825F-02; Calyon,  
bright pink J855F-02.  
Prices on request.



Romo Saphira



The Focus citron rug from **Roche Bobois**.  
£4,460.

**DFS** Lattice rug in ivory blue. Available in four colours and two sizes. From €139.



**Villa Nova** Geneva Vintage II Collection. From left to right: Geneva Vintage Eucalyptus; Geneva Vintage Squirrel; Geneva Vintage Mallow; Geneva Vintage Eucalyptus & Geneva Vintage Delta. Prices on request.

Slate knitted throw with fringe detail from **PUJI**. £23.



**Scion** Raita rug in citrus 24700 - (140 x 200cm), £349; (170 x 240cm), £499 & (200 x 280cm), £725.





CUSHIONS THROWS & RUGS



**Scion** Cedar rug in chilli 24605 -  
(140 x 200cm), £349 (170 x 240cm),  
£499 & (200 x 280cm), £725.



Dalmata rug from **Art Hide** features  
contrast black and white premium  
tiled hide. Price on request.



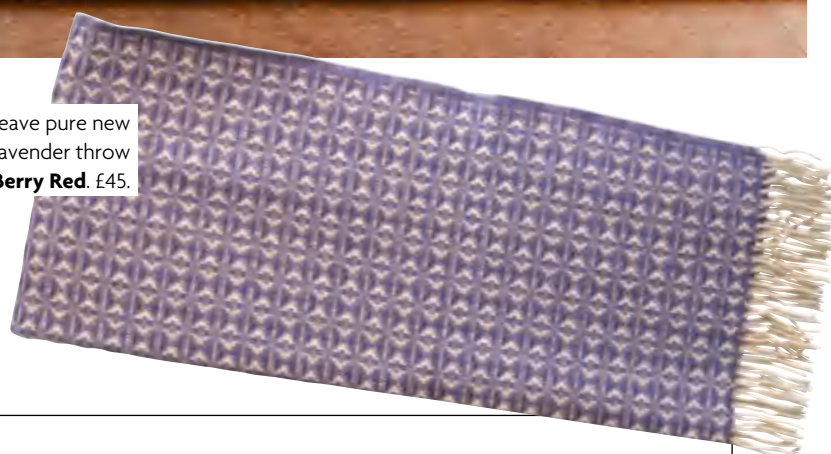
Available from **WITHIN** and woven in Yorkshire, the Heritage  
Cashmere Collection offers the finest quality throws. £245.



Hand woven  
Barcode rug from  
**Modern Rugs**. £349.



Cobweave pure new  
wool lavender throw  
from **Berry Red**. £45.



The Bloomsbury circular  
rug from **Luku Home** is  
a truly unique, bohemian  
patterned rug. £200.



This Cable throw in  
Firecracker Red from  
**Made** is a warm,  
chunky extra layer for  
your sofa or bed. £39.



## STOCKISTS

**A**  
**Art Hide**  
*arthide.com.au*

**B**  
**Bedeck Home**  
Belfast, 028 9066 9828  
Moygashel, 028 8772 9153  
*bedeckhome.com*  
**Berry Red**  
0845 4503937.  
*berryred.co.uk*  
**Browsers**  
Limerick 061 414490  
*browsers.ie*

**D**  
**DFS**  
*dfs.co.uk (s).*  
*dfs.ie (s).*

**H**  
**Harvey Norman**  
*harvey-norman.co.uk (s).*  
*harveynorman.ie (s).*

**J**  
**Jane Churchill**  
*janechurchill.com*  
**Jude Cassidy**  
REAL, Belfast 028 9068 3939.  
The Cape Table,  
Holywood 028 9042 7077  
Thompson Clarke Interiors,  
Belfast 028 9045 006.  
*judecassidy.com*

**L**  
**Levande**  
0845 123 6805 **(s).**  
**Luku Home**  
*lukuhome.com*

**M**  
**Made**  
0845 557 6888.  
*made.com*  
**Modern Rugs**  
01388 663738  
*modern-rugs.co.uk*

**M&S**  
*marksandspencer.com*

**N**  
**Neptune**  
*neptune.com*

**O**  
**Oscar & Eve**  
0208 993 7639  
*oscarandeve.co.uk*

**P**  
**PUJI**  
0208 8863000.  
*puji.com*

**R**  
**Romo**  
*romo.com*

**S**  
**Sandberg**  
*sandberg.co.uk*

**Sanderson**  
NI 0844 5439500 **(s).**  
ROI 01 2765811 **(s).**  
*sanderson-uk.com*  
**Scion**  
*scion.uk.com*  
**Sofa.com**  
0345 400 2222 **(s).**  
*sofa.com*

**V**  
**Vanessa Arbuthnott**  
01285 831437 **(s).**  
*vanessarbutnott.co.uk*  
**Villa Nova**  
01623 756 699 **(s).**  
*villanova.co.uk*

**W**  
**WITHIN**  
0207 0872900.  
*withinhome.com*

READER'S REFERENCE:  
**(s)** = Phone for stockists





# CurtainCall

Keep the cold out and save on energy costs with the right window dressings for your home. From interlined curtains and fabric blinds, to shutters and venetians, there is something for everyone

Palmetto & Belvedere velvets by Harlequin from **Emporium Interiors**.  
Curtains are £42 per metre; blinds Boheme linens £36 per metre.







## WINDOW DRESSING

Dressing a window is important not just for aesthetic reasons but because it helps keep the heat in and drafts out, which helps reduce your heating bills! With that said, it is important to get the right look for your rooms while keeping it practical. First you can decide whether light flow is important; if you want the option of darkness then you need to go for lined curtains, but if you are okay with light filtering through, or if the curtains are purely decorative, unlined will work. A lined curtain will protect your home from drafts a bit more so that is worth baring in mind.

When considering what look to go for, take into consideration the rest of the room and what it is used for. If it is a formal room you can bring in some of the more luxurious fabrics such as velvet or silk, but for a more casually used room – or a room that children may use more frequently – a linen, cotton, or cotton blends may be more practical as they can be removed and cleaned.

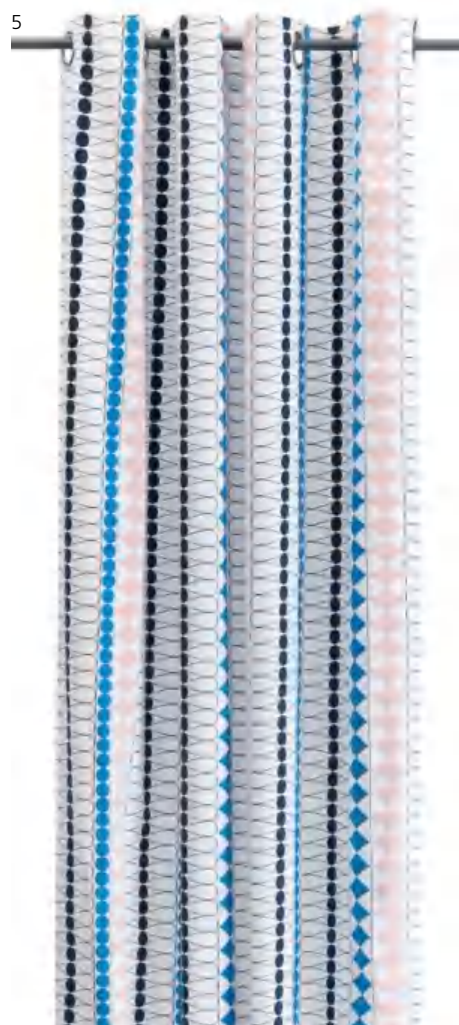
You can go for neutral, colourful, patterns or textures, and all inbetween! The choices are endless where this is concerned, but window dressings can really make a statement in a room. You can go for the same tone as your walls but a shade darker to keep it balanced, or you can go for something more bold with a contrast.

Shutters and blinds can create a seamless look and are a great hassle free solution to window dressing. They also come in many different colours, materials and patterns, so it is worth shopping around.





**1** Folk is a contemporary expression of an eclectic and diverse range of designs from **Mark Alexander**, with a focus on capturing the authentic spirit of art within culture. Price on request. **2** **Villa Nova** Shimla fabric. Price on request. **3** The Arcadia collection by **Linwood**. From £44.90 per metre. **4** **BlocOut** energy saving blind in Grey Thunder fabric. £130. **5** **Santa Fe** Nevada, a new style shutter system perfect for kitchens and bathrooms. 63mm shutter in bright white. £240 per m<sup>2</sup>. **6** **MOSSFLOX** from **IKEA** brings an element of fun to any room; the vivid patterns yet muted colours will shape and style your windows to perfection. £20/€25.





WINDOW DRESSING







## EXPERT ADVICE

'Timberlux suggest layering a wooden Venetian blind with full length curtains. It's a trend we see in fashion, but this Autumn/Winter, layering looks set to become a trend in interior design too. This 'layer on layer' approach adds depth and definition. Interlining curtains will reduce draughts dramatically and create a luxurious and cosy interior.'

**1** Clarke & Clarke Latour collection. £39 per metre. **2** 50mm wooden Venetian blind with contrasting black tapes from **Timberlux**. From £115 for a 61 x 61cm. **3** Neptune fabric seen as curtain in the luxury Cranberry velvet. €56 per metre. **4** The Kansai collection from **Black Edition** offers high end fashion for interiors with digitally printed designs on sumptuous velvets and sophisticated silks and linens. Price on request. **5** Zinc's Nightclubbing stand-alone print collection of velvets and faux silks. Price on request. **6** Luxurious fabric from **Romo**. Price on request.

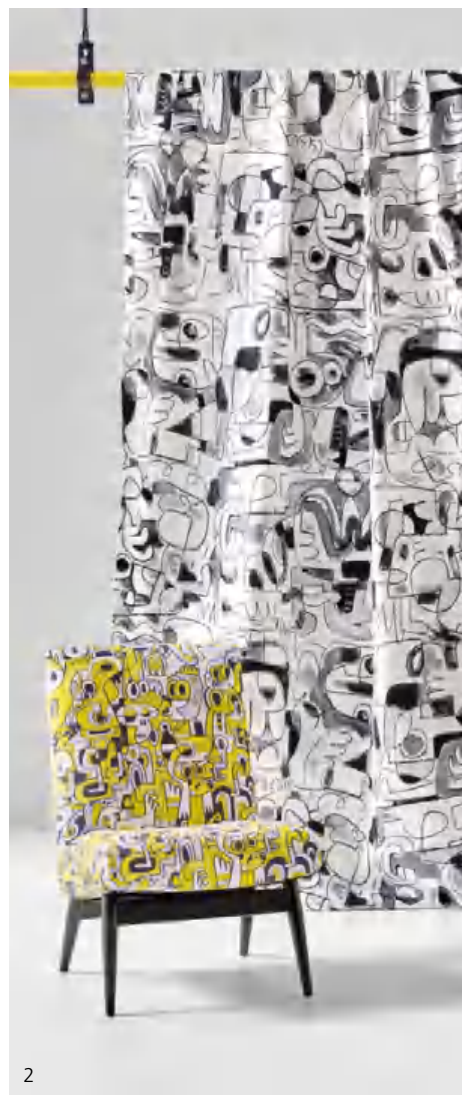




## WINDOW DRESSING



1 Reflection Graphite blinds from **The Fabric Box**. From £54. 2 **Kirkby Design** introduces their 'The world of Jon Burgerman' which brings a playful injection of art into fabrics. Price on request. 3 Emotion range from **Casadeco** is elegant and luxurious. Price on request. 4 Stunning curtain making by **Beaufort Interiors** including bowed-boards, heavy interlining and hand-pleated goblet headings with detailed silk trim. Primary fabric printed floral linen £89 per metre; satin border fabric £76 per metre; silk trimming is £94 per metre; tie backs are £114 each.







5



6

**5** Chicks in the Eaves from Julie Dodsworth at **Bedeck** celebrates the arrival of summers warm embrace with nesting birds chirping noisily in the eaves of the kitchen garden store and fledglings boldly venturing to garden feeders, hungry for sunflower seeds and nuts. 66 x 72 inches. £60. **6** Romo Saphira Curtain Fabric from **The Spinning Wheel**. £45 per metre. Available from The Spinning Wheel in the Harvey Norman Home Centre.

## STOCKISTS

**B**  
**Beaufort Interiors**  
 Belfast 028 9066 4655 and Moira 028 9261 9508.  
[beaufortinteriors.co.uk](http://beaufortinteriors.co.uk)  
**Bedeck**  
 0845 6030861 (s).  
[bedeckhome.com](http://bedeckhome.com)  
**Black Edition**  
[blackedition.com](http://blackedition.com) (s).  
**BlocOut**  
[blocblinds.co.uk](http://blocblinds.co.uk)

**C**  
**Carke & Clarke**  
 Homestyle Blinds and Interiors,  
 Ballymena 028 2565 5565 and  
 Ballyclare 028 9334 2693.  
 Home Decor Centre,  
 Omagh 028 8224 3832.  
 Roycroft Interiors,  
 Lisburn 028 9266 9595.  
[clarke-clarke.co.uk](http://clarke-clarke.co.uk) (s).

**Casadeco**  
 NI 08443 690 102 (s).  
 ROI 0818 200 056 (s).  
[www.casadeco.com](http://www.casadeco.com)

**E**  
**Emporium Interiors**  
 Kilrea 028 2954 0119.  
[emporiumni.com](http://emporiumni.com)

**H**  
**Harlequin**  
[harlequin.uk.com](http://harlequin.uk.com) (s).

**I**  
**IKEA**  
 Belfast 0845 3551113.  
 Dublin 1890 987 938.  
[ikea.co.uk](http://ikea.co.uk)  
[ikea.ie](http://ikea.ie)

**K**  
**Kirkby**  
[kirkbydesign.com](http://kirkbydesign.com) (s).

**L**  
**Linwood**  
[linwoodfabric.com](http://linwoodfabric.com)

**M**  
**Mark Alexander**  
 01623 756 699.  
[markalexander.com](http://markalexander.com)

**N**  
**Neptune**  
[neptune.com](http://neptune.com) (s).

**R**  
**Romo**  
 Alan Espey Interiors,  
 Newtownards 028 9181 5076;  
 Beechgrove Interiors,  
 Ballymena 028 2588 0012.  
 Emporium Interiors,  
 Kilrea 028 29540119.  
 Mix 'n' Match Interiors,  
 Meath 01 8259553.  
 Roycroft Interiors,  
 Lisburn 028 9266 9595.  
 The Fabulous  
 Fabric Company,  
 Ballymakeera 026 45235.

Gareth McFarland Interiors,  
 Moygashel 028 8775 0077.  
[romo.com](http://romo.com) (s).

**S**  
**Santa Fe**  
 0845 0760109 (s).  
[santafeshutters.co.uk](http://santafeshutters.co.uk) (s).

**T**  
**The Fabric Box**  
 0844 8118280 (s).  
[www.thefabricbox.co.uk](http://www.thefabricbox.co.uk)  
**Timberlux**  
 0844 8243432 (s).  
[www.timberlux.co.uk](http://www.timberlux.co.uk)

**Z**  
**Zinc**  
 Roycroft Interiors,  
 Lisburn 028 9266 9595.  
[zinctextile.com](http://zinctextile.com) (s).

(s) = PHONE FOR STOCKISTS



# What's Cookin'

Fulfil every home chef's dream with this selection of range cookers.



Designed in Italy, this **Smeg** Victoria Aesthetic 110cm range has a traditional dual fuel. Price on request.









## EXPERT ADVICE

**Owen Power, Commercial Director,  
Waterford Stanley:**

When considering a range cooker you need to consider some of the following:

- Are you looking for a cooker only or do you want to heat radiators and hot water? Stanley have a variety of range cookers available to heat up to 20 radiators.
- What space is available in your kitchen? The Stanley Supreme Deluxe is available in 90cm wide or 110cm wide models.
- Do you prefer cast iron cooking or using gas hob or induction to cook?
- Would you prefer a separate grill? The Stanley Supreme Deluxe has separate grills in both the 90cm and 110cm models.





2



3

**1 Mercury** 1200 dual fuel range. Price on request. **2 Caple** Sense dual fuel double cavity range cooker brings style and functionality. £1,518/€2,147. **3** The rv1200 from **CDA** is a professional style range with five gas burners, a ceramic griddle zoned with 12 power levels, wok burner, cast iron pan supports. £2,199. Euro price on request. **4 Belling's** 900MM DB490 range cooker. Dual fuel model fitted with five burners including 3.5Kw Wok Burner. €1,349. **5 Britannia's** Delphi 100cm XG Colourange range cooker in red. Price on request.



5



## RANGE COOKERS



**1 Baumatic** BCD925IV - 90cm dual fuel twin cavity range cooker in ivory. Price on request. **2 La Cornue's** CornuFé Albertine White with copper detailing. £4,450/€6,150. **3 Falcon** 1092 Deluxe, dual fuel, Cherry Redfive burner gas hob with 5kw central wok burner, 68 litre multifunction oven, 79 litre fan oven, catalytic liners. Roll out grill. 1,092x600x912mm. £3,199/€4,599. **4 Wolf** ICBDF606CG free standing dual fuel stainless steel range cooker. Price on request. **5** The new **Stanley** Supreme Deluxe 90cm range cooker displays timeless design quality that enables it to fit in to any style of kitchen. Its classically simple, understated appeal will match any taste, from the contemporary to the traditional and is available in a choice of five colours plus induction hob (£2,399/€2,999) or gas hob (£2,099/€2,599) to suit your kitchen décor.







3



5

## STOCKISTS

B

### Baumatic

C&F Quadrant,  
Belfast 028 9036 5555  
and Dublin 01 6305757.  
[baumatic.co.uk](http://baumatic.co.uk)

### Belling

Glen Dimplex,  
Craigavon 028 3833 7317.  
Dimpco, Dublin 01 8424833.  
0844 248 4149 (s).  
[belling.co.uk](http://belling.co.uk)

### Britannia

Glen Dimplex,  
Craigavon 028 3833 7317.  
Dimpco, Dublin 01 8424833.  
[britannialiving.co.uk](http://britannialiving.co.uk)

C

### Caple

0870 606 9606 (s).  
[caple.co.uk](http://caple.co.uk)

### CDA

Bodel, Lisburn 028 9267 2412.  
[cda-europe.com](http://cda-europe.com)

F

### Falcon

0800 806 6261 (s).  
[falconappliances.com](http://falconappliances.com)

L

### La Cornue

Ian A Kernohan,  
Bangor 028 91270233.  
The Aga Shop,  
Belfast 028 9045 0103.  
[lacornue.com](http://lacornue.com)

M

### Mercury

[mercuryappliances.co.uk](http://mercuryappliances.co.uk) (s).

S

### Smeg

Bodel Distributors,  
Lisburn 028 9267 2412.  
[smeguk.com](http://smeguk.com)

W

### Waterford Stanley

Waterford, ROI 1850 302 502  
and NI 028 8772 2195.  
[waterfordstanley.com](http://waterfordstanley.com)

### Wolf

[subzero-wolf.co.uk](http://subzero-wolf.co.uk) (s).

READER'S REFERENCE:

(s) = Phone for stockist details.



# Home is Where the Heart is

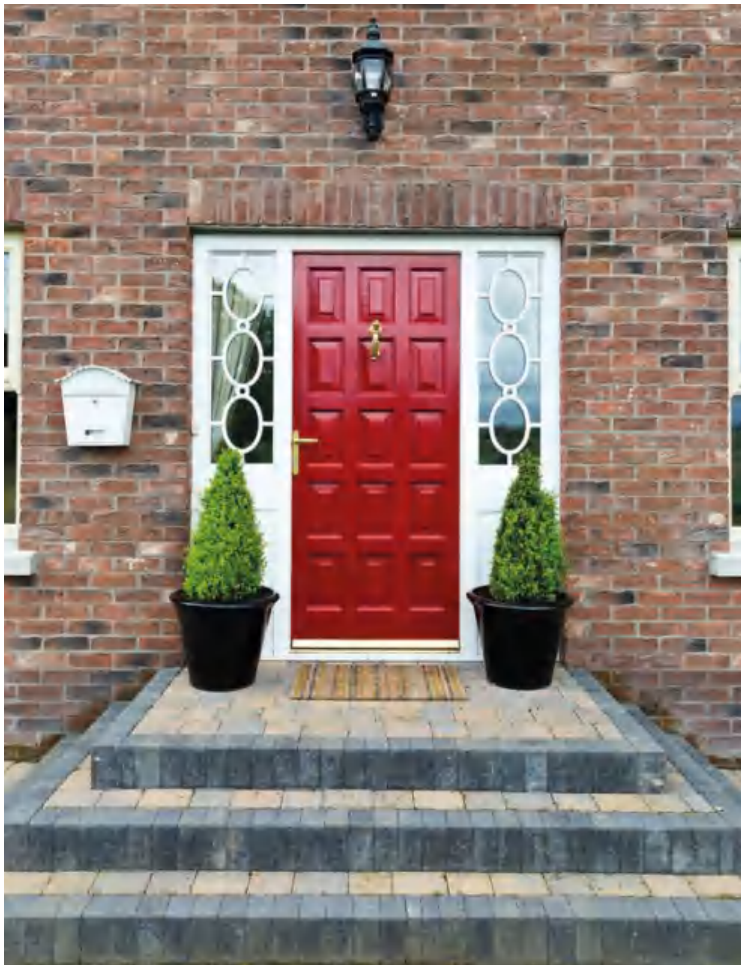
Sarah and Stuart have managed to create a beautiful, classic home in Dromore, with a stunning backdrop of the Mourne Mountains to gaze upon from the comfort of their home.











When Sarah and Stuart first saw the Drumlin View development they knew it was the perfect location and somewhere that they would love to be as a family. ‘We lived in Dromore before, and Stuart grew up in Dromore and it meant a whole lot to him to stay here,’ explains Sarah. ‘So it wasn’t really on the agenda to look elsewhere. We did consider Saintfield, as that is where I grew up, and my mum and sister still live there, but Dromore just made more sense with its location.’

With the stunning views of the Mourne, Drumlin View from developers F.P. McCann and builders Contemporary Heritage, offered the couple exactly what they wanted, ‘When we first looked at the development, we knew that we wanted one of the houses situated towards the top to take full advantage of the scenery.’







From the hall running into the living room is a stunning gloss wooden floor, which really ties together the grand look throughout.







‘At the time we thought we had missed out on the opportunity to purchase one of these, but luckily one became available and we snapped this up straight away.’ says Sarah. ‘We loved the houses, their layout and design, but it was the view that sold it for us. Stuart just couldn’t get past the fact the view is almost identical to that from the home he grew up in, and I think that really means a lot to him.’

‘As this was actually the show home for the

development, we didn’t get to pick out certain things because we weren’t involved from the beginning of the building process but we actually couldn’t have been happier with the way it was done up. The kitchen cabinetry, work top and flooring are all neutral, which is what we would have chosen and our small appliances all suit perfectly.’

From the hall running into the living room is a stunning gloss wooden floor, which really ties together the grand look throughout.

















The kitchen cabinetry, work top and flooring are all neutral, which is what we would have chosen and our small appliances all suit perfectly.





Going through their home, it has an elegant, classic feel, with lots of cool and calming neutral tones throughout with some subtle splashes of colour. 'We had a lot of the furniture and decorative items before moving into this house, stuff we had gathered up and had in our previous home, and we still really loved the look of the old pieces so everything found its place here too,' explains Sarah. 'We

did want to keep the place quite neutral and calm, as I think this works best for us and with our antique and more classic pieces.'

'I am fond of upcycling too, finding unwanted gems on Gumtree for relatively cheap and giving them a new lease of life with a bit of love and a lick or two of paint! I have found and created some really lovely pieces of furniture from doing this.'









‘We find a lot of our furniture in antique stores locally as well, which of course contributes to the classic look.’







‘Upstairs in one of the guest rooms we opted for a really fresh, light blue shade on one of the walls which really brightened up the room.’





‘We find a lot of our furniture in antique stores locally as well, which of course contributes to the classic look. We particularly like the Interiors Warehouse in Hillsborough and our curtains were made to order from The Crowes Nest in Crossgar.’

Upstairs we see similar neutral tones, each room beautifully presented with

thoughtful touches. ‘We used Laura Ashley paint for most of the walls. Upstairs in one of the guest rooms we opted for a really fresh light blue shade on one of the walls which really brightened up the room. In the other guest room there is a lovely headboard feature, which was actually already here when we moved in.’





Sarah adds, 'Looking to the future, we will always be changing things and adding to the house as we go along, structurally though we are completely happy with it and wouldn't change a thing.' 🏠





# Create the look

## FROM THE DROMORE HOME

*Sarah and Stuart have lovingly created a classic styled home with lots of neutral, calming tones.*



Adele chandelier from **The Chandelier & Mirror Company**.  
£265. [chandeliersandmirrors.co.uk](http://chandeliersandmirrors.co.uk)



Persia black cushion from **In-Spaces**. £55. [in-spaces.co.uk](http://in-spaces.co.uk)



Porthole mirror from **Loaf**. £175.  
[loaf.com](http://loaf.com)



**Darlings of Chelsea** Highland sofa in Harris tweed. £1,955. [darlingsofchelsea.co.uk](http://darlingsofchelsea.co.uk)



Portsmouth Grey range coffee table from **Melody Maison**.  
£309.95. [melodymaison.co.uk](http://melodymaison.co.uk)



Square Sleepy Willow rug is exclusive to **Rug Couture** and is made to measure. £1,240. [rugcouture.com](http://rugcouture.com)



# Cottage Craft

Karen bought this truly unique home in  
Co. Galway and recreated it in her own style.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BARBARA EGAN/REPORTAGE.











Living in a housing estate in Galway city, Karen wanted something different, a unique home with character, a place to make her own. On the first of January 2003, she asked her sister, who co-owned the semi-detached they lived in together if she would consider selling. Her sister agreed, they put the house on the market and it was snapped up immediately, leaving Karen with limited time to find another place to live.

'I knew I would have to rent a home for a while, so I decided to take the opportunity to try out something different. I thought, well, what about a thatched cottage? In the country? That would be fun! So I looked in the papers and online, came up with four possibilities, and rang them all. Only one rang back; a lovely woman called Hazel had a thatched cottage to rent, near the village of Furbo, only seven miles from Galway city but in a rural area and beside the sea.'

Karen went to have a look. 'My first impression was that it was quite dark inside, but such a beautiful old cottage, and a wonderful location. It was so very charming that I agreed to rent it immediately. The owner explained that she understood that I was looking for somewhere to buy, but didn't want me to sign a lease with the mistaken impression that it was for sale, because it wasn't. 'You will enjoy living here', she said, 'this house will wrap around you like a blanket.'

And so it proved. Karen moved in to the house in May, and three weeks later, looking at the sun streaming through the half door into the interior, she was struck afresh by the wonderful atmosphere and location. 'I rang Hazel once more, just to ask if she would consider selling,' says Karen. The answer was still no, but only weeks later, Hazel changed her mind.

Delighted, Karen bought the house, but couldn't afford to do very much with it initially as she had very little cash to spare after the purchase. 'It was undoubtedly full of character and I loved it, but I itched to start work on the interiors,' she says. 'The inside struck dark from the very first time I saw the house, and that is what I wanted to address.'











A dark brown carpet and mahogany furniture contributed to the dark effect, the exterior woodwork was painted red and the interior doors dark green but the one factor that Karen wanted to change as soon as possible was the pine tongue-and-groove timber on all the ceilings, which had darkened with age to a dull orange. 'I felt the ceilings were bearing down on me all the time,' she says. 'The very first thing I did was to paint them all in shades of white to lift them up.'

The effect was immediate. Encouraged, Karen used the inspiration of home interiors in her favourite area of France, La Rochelle and the Île de Ré, to find a new colour for the





woodwork. 'I was looking for the very pale blue-grey that looked so wonderful in French houses but couldn't quite get it, in the end I mixed the colour myself,' she says. She also found a plush, luxurious carpet in a toning pale olive to replace the hated brown; a big mistake as it turned out.

'I envisaged it softening the interiors and giving a wonderful comfortable, cosy feel, but it was a complete disaster,' she says. 'It killed the feeling of lightness I had achieved with the paint colours completely, the furniture just sank into it.' In the end she had to bite the bullet and get rid of it.







‘I take inspiration from the colours of Western France, the ‘villa’ timber houses of New Zealand where I spent a year before buying this cottage, and the Cape Cod-style houses of Massachusetts where I visit for work.’



She decided on light, vintage effect timber flooring instead and rapidly ran into another problem; the floors were too uneven to take it. Finally she found someone willing to do the job, but it took days to level the floor enough and even so, the kitchen ended up on a different level, as the floor in it was solid rock. The existing kitchen units were in a simple Shaker design, so Karen just painted over the pine finish in an off-white; the idea for the thick, luxurious red velvet curtains over the door came from Prague, where they are used in bars and restaurants to keep out the icy winds, and they work equally well on the Galway coast!

With the kitchen done, she tackled the bathroom, replete with an avocado suite and plastic panels that Karen couldn't wait to see off. 'The claw foot bath was expensive and I wasn't sure I could afford it, but I am glad I persevered, and went for what I truly wanted,' she says.













A good quality linoleum in a classic black and white chequer board pattern caught her eye, and she extended it out into the back kitchen. 'I don't like the cold feel of tiles,' she says. 'That's also why I used timber paneling around the bath.'

On the upstairs landing, Karen painted all the woodwork white but used slightly different shades to add some contrast, using a mixture of Farrow and Ball, Dulux and Colortrend paint. She spotted the mirrored door in a magazine and copied it to add space and reflect light on the small landing area. 'Then it was the turn of master bedroom where my idea was light, light, light,' she says. 'I painted everything white, including the floor. I love the way the daylight flows unobstructed around the bed and the side tables, almost as if they float.'

Karen's work in the house is ongoing, the next project is the guest bedroom, which still features the brown carpet. 'I would very much like to re-floor that room, and in the long term, I would love to extend, incorporating the back kitchen into a larger open-plan kitchen,' she says. 'However, my house works brilliantly for me, and I got what I wanted, a truly unique home.' 🏠



# Create the look

## FROM THE GALWAY HOME

*Karen has taken foreign influences to decorate her cosy Irish cottage.*

Decorative Grey Squirrel Cushion from **In Spaces**. £40. Phone 0207 5801990. [in-spaces.com](http://in-spaces.com)



**Stovax** Huntingdon 30 wood burning stove in matt black. Price on request. Phone 01392 474000 for a full list of stockists. [stovax.com](http://stovax.com)



Classical white overmantle mirror from **Sweetpea & Willow**. £296. Phone 0345 2572627. [sweetpeaandwillow.com](http://sweetpeaandwillow.com)



Colours Oxygen silk emulsion paint from **B&Q**. £3 for 2.5L. [diy.com](http://diy.com)



Marseille wood and iron coffee table from **Artisanti**. Phone 0345 2591410. [artisanti.com](http://artisanti.com)



Petersham Oak industrial five-tier shelf display unit from **Around The House Furniture**. £448. [aroundthehousefurniture.co.uk](http://aroundthehousefurniture.co.uk)



Set of two grey rattan log baskets from **The Contemporary Home**. £105. Phone 02392 469400. [tch.net](http://tch.net)







# A Family Home

Eva and her family are constantly breathing a new lease of life into her great-grandfather's Edwardian home in Glasnevin, Dublin, with fun, quirky interiors full of personality.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BARBARA EGAN/REPORTAGE.











In 1910, Eva McConkey's great-grandfather bought a brand new house in the village of Glasnevin, just outside Dublin. A century later, Glasnevin, just two miles from Dublin's city centre, has long been overtaken by a city that he would hardly recognise, but the Edwardian redbrick home he bought is still in the family.

His great grand-daughter, Eva and husband Ian moved into the downstairs flat in the house in 1994, initially renting it from Eva's parents. Three years later they bought the house, replacing the roof soon afterwards. 'At that stage, we couldn't afford to forego the rent from the students in the flat upstairs, so we just lived in the downstairs, continuing to do so when our children Louis and Oliver arrived', says Eva.

But when their third child, Jane, was born in 1999, it was time to move the students out and the couple restored the house to a single home. They replaced all of the windows and took up all the carpets, sanded down and sealed the floorboards, and had the house wallpapered in raspberry and royal blue stripes; the back (dining) room was painted in burnt orange. 'It was 1999, and I loved it, I thought the colours were amazing and I had yellow striped wallpaper and a raspberry and a royal blue sofa in the front living room and adored them because they were so cool and funky,' says Eva. She spent the next few years as a stay-at-home mum, with three children under three, her days were filled with toys and games, falling into bed exhausted at the end of the day.







Then the children got older and went to school, and Eva found herself with a little more time. 'The house and furniture had withstood the onslaught of three children for years and when I looked at it the décor was dated and the whole interior needed a different look, but we couldn't afford to get the decorators in,' says Eva. 'At that time, that's what I thought you had to do, get in painters and buy new furniture to change the look.'

All that was about to change, as one day Eva decided to take matters into her own hands and went to a DIY shop for advice. 'I bought a roller and tray, paintbrushes and paint. They advised me that white ceiling paint was the best thing to cover over strong colour or pattern, so I bought a large tub of it, and when I got home I started to cover up all the dated colours and patterns, and I was astonished at the results. It was like magic, I could completely change the look of my house all by myself. I worked until the middle of the night, fell into bed and slept for a few hours and started again. In a few short days, my house was transformed and I had discovered something extraordinary, I could do this myself.'

'I have achieved a house that I find interesting, comfortable, fun and colourful without spending a fortune. I enjoyed the process so much that I've started a business helping other people to do it too!'















Having discovered what could be done, Eva became a passionate re-decorator and up-cycler. ‘The shabby chic look came naturally to me, I discovered that I could update furniture by painting it and do simple re-upholstery, so I could work with what we already had. Our decision was that our money was to go to the children’s education first, and once I found that solid furniture need never date with a little imagination and a paintbrush, I started to enjoy it all tremendously.’

Eva ripped all the sisal from the stairs and painted them white, a look she had seen in a magazine. ‘Sisal is a very tough, hard wearing floor covering and I wouldn’t criticise it, but a painted floor or stairs is so much easier to keep,’ she says. The kitchen, which had been dark green, became red with white furniture and later evolved into its present version of pale blue/grey and off-whites as Eva embraced the Scandinavian look. Oliver and Andrew’s room has recently been re-invented with blackboard paint as Eva painted one entire wall as a giant blackboard, counterbalanced with white-painted floorboards. Eva has never had to replace the tiles in the bathroom, but they have been painted in several different shades.









Using TK Maxx, second hand finds and recycling old pine furniture and kitchen units, Eva transformed her house and continues to update with new looks on a regular basis. 'I love it. I really enjoy transforming a space', she says. 'I love to change the look all the time. In the sitting room, I bought a huge leather sofa that is big enough for friends and family, and I just update with new cushions regularly. I'm doing a big transformation on Jane's room now, and I've just opened my shop RenEVate, which means I can change my furniture and accessories on a regular basis as I find new stock and upcycle it!'

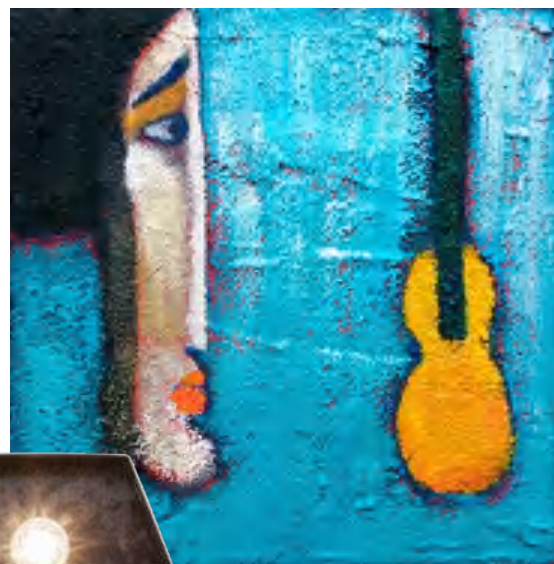
'If and when we ever get all the children through college, I'm going to completely gut the house and rebuild an amazingly minimal, contemporary interior,' says Eva. 'But I do love to come home to my house as it is, fun, vibrant, colourful and funky; it's very me.' 🏠



# Create the look

## FROM THE DUBLIN HOME

*Eva has brought her own creativity into her family home.*



Original acrylic painting by London-based artist, Zhana Viel called Blue Musiek, sold by **Artfinder**. £89. Phone 0203 3978833. [artfinder.com](http://artfinder.com)



Pinto cowhide ottoman from **Eco Chic**. Price on request. [ecochic.com.au](http://ecochic.com.au)



Vegas Turbo 19" letter lights with rustic finish from **Cult Furniture**. £159. [cultfurniture.com](http://cultfurniture.com)



Home Sweet Home decorative heart from **Retreat Home**. £10.99. Phone 01628 471056. [retreat-home.com](http://retreat-home.com)



Pink parrot cushion from **Out There Interiors**. £29.99. Phone 0208 0997443. [outthereinteriors.com](http://outthereinteriors.com)



Evening Primrose fireplace tiles from **Stovax**. Price on request. Phone Buckley Fireplaces, Dublin 01 2946863; Flames & Fireplaces, Banbridge 028 406 29080 and Mourne Fires, Carryduff, 028 9081 5115. [stovax.com](http://stovax.com)





## WHY NOT GIVE THE GIFT OF A DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION THIS CHRISTMAS?

Ireland's Homes Interiors & Living magazine has now gone digital, offering you access to inspirational pages of Irish interiors across a range of devices wherever you may be. Whether in the comfort of your own home or on the move, your favourite interiors magazine is now at your fingertips.

View sample pages for free, or subscribe to enjoy the whole magazine on the go!

❄️ **JANUARY ISSUE NOW AVAILABLE** ❄️

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# The Perfect Combination

Moving into their first home, Claire and Neil had big plans for their new kitchen in Coleraine. Seeking expertise and advice, they visited Woodland Kitchens and their dream became a reality. The attention to detail on design and practicality make this kitchen come alive.















‘This is our first home so it’s our first kitchen,’ says Claire. ‘We had quite a few discussions about modern versus traditional. I like slightly more modern and Neil would veer towards traditional so after some negotiating between us, we compromised!’ With the design idea in place, they began researching who was going to carry it through to the end for them. Hearing good things about Woodland Kitchens through word-of-mouth and spotting their work in a magazine, they paid them a visit. They knew they were the ideal company to work with and having everything made bespoke in house made them even more appealing. It was a new build house so they could factor in design elements very early like changing door positions and window heights but other than that it was good to go.

‘We definitely wanted a very big kitchen but most importantly a very practical kitchen, everything to have its place but still have the ‘wow’ factor. We didn’t want to spend too much of our budget on internal gadgets or having doors in-frame but having better appliances. In fact we got help from Neff chef Stephen Taylor Winter to decide. He explained what appliances suited our lifestyle and how to get the most out of them. In terms of how it all looked, we wanted a twist on a traditional design that had to be two tone including a natural wood finish.’

It is evident that the thought process has been very well considered. There’s a door to the left of the hob which is the entrance/exit to the back hall. The couple didn’t want anything around that area of the kitchen so as not to have people walk through the kitchen when they come in. They also wanted a big island with no seating near the hob or sink or fridge. ‘The island was the main thing for us and we only decided on the make up of that when we were marking out things with the electrician, that’s when the curves came into play. It’s very practical plus everyone is on a curve so I find it much more social. People can see each other rather than having to crick their neck.’







In the island there are practical storage drawers that also include a filing drawer for files and bits and pieces. There's a pop-up socket for the laptop and appliances too which is very handy. So really it's a bit of furniture too and it has to be practical for so many reasons and uses. There are also drawers inside the larders, a big double bin which is situated beside the dishwasher. Everything has a place and it works very well for the couple's daily lives. 'There's nothing really 'gadgety' apart from the sockets I suppose, we invested in the appliances like two warming drawers, a slide away oven and a combi microwave oven too. There's a big CDA fridge which is a bit too handy for our three year old to break into! Our hot water tap a fantastic addition. They are brilliant. We have no filtered water through the fridge so this tap has filtered hot and cold, it's so handy for us.'

So in totality there is a bit of a mix of contemporary sensibilities

with the big, sweeping curves but the corbel and mantles make up the traditional side of things which were all designed directly by Woodland's specialist joinery team. Combine that level of craftsmanship with how the kitchen works on a practical level and you have two very satisfied customers. 'Everything has a place and there's no interference in the cooking area and it's very social as you can chat with people around you. In fact our dining table is hardly ever used, the breakfast bar is so popular. Our favourite feature is the island. It's centre stage of the design and everyone that comes in loves it. We went for the chunky 60mm oak worktop and that was all made in house by Woodland along with the mantle, corbels and island. It was a very enjoyable experience working with Woodland Kitchens. We felt part of the process and they were so helpful for design ideas and being responsive to our ideas and wishes to organizing advice for our suite of appliances.'

## Kitchen Contacts

### KITCHEN DESIGN

#### Woodland Kitchens

Ballymena 028 2564 5833.

[www.woodlandni.com](http://www.woodlandni.com)

**Worktops:** Coleraine Fireplaces.

### APPLIANCES

**Oven:** Neff

**Hob:** Neff

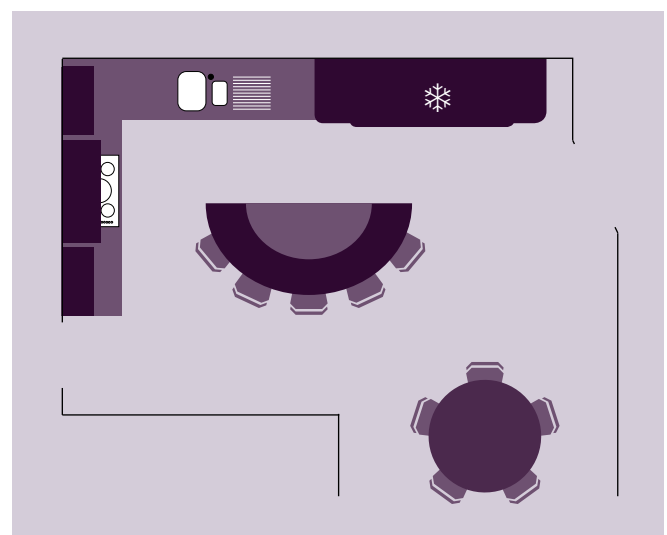
**Warming drawer:** Neff

**Fridge freezer:** CDA

**Combination microwave oven:** Neff

**Integrated dishwasher:** Neff

**Hot & filtered water tap:** Insinkerator







# Dynamic Dining

The Marco Pierre White Steakhouse Bar & Grill Belfast in the Park Avenue Hotel brings a new dimension to the N.I. restaurant scene.

Here we bring you a few dishes off the menu to try at home.

**Above: Roast Rump of Lamb a la Dijonnaise with Potatoes Dauphinoise**  
(recipe on following page)



## Roast Rump of Lamb a la Dijonnaise with Potatoes Dauphinoise

(pictured on previous page)

**Serves 1**

### INGREDIENTS

8oz lamb rump  
60g green beans  
10g butter  
1g salt  
1g pepper  
15g chives  
10g dijon mustard  
10ml olive oil  
Lamb rump

### METHOD

- 1 Season the lamb rump with salt and pepper.
- 2 Start in a cold pan to render fat.
- 3 Once hot, caramalise all over and finish in the oven for around 10 minutes.
- 4 Allow to rest.
- 5 The lamb should be served pink.
- 6 Brush with Dijon mustard and roll in chives.
- 7 Blanch your green beans for 5 minutes and finish with butter.

### Potatoes Dauphinoise

(to make prior to lamb)

### INGREDIENTS

1kg potatoes sliced thinly  
500ml double cream

¼ garlic bulb  
1.25g salt  
1.25g pepper  
7.5g thyme  
75g gruyère cheese  
250g cheddar cheese  
7.5g rosemary

### METHOD

- 1 Add the cream, chopped thyme, chopped rosemary, finely chopped garlic and seasoning together in pan and bring to a simmer.
- 2 Remove from heat and leave for an 1 hour.
- 3 Layer potatoes with Cheddar cheese in a tray, then pour in the cream liquid, top with Gruyère cheese and place in the oven for approximately 45 minutes at 185 celsius.

### Red Wine Jus (Large batch)

Only 30mls is needed for this dish.

**Top Tip:** Freeze the rest of the red wine jus and use for your roast dinner to make it that little bit more luxurious.

### INGREDIENTS

1.5ltrs veal stock  
700ml cockburn's Port  
700ml red wine  
15 shallots

### METHOD

- 1 Add the finely sliced shallots to the port and red wine.
- 2 Leave in fridge for 24 hours.
- 3 Reduce the 1.5ltrs of veal stock to 1ltr by boiling.

**4** In a separate pan, reduce the shallot and red wine mix to 500ml by boiling.

**5** Add the reduced veal stock to the shallot and red wine mix and let it simmer for 10 minutes skimming the top every minute.

**6** Pass through a sieve and season with salt and pepper.

## Beetroot & Goat's Cheese Salad

**Serves 1**

### INGREDIENTS

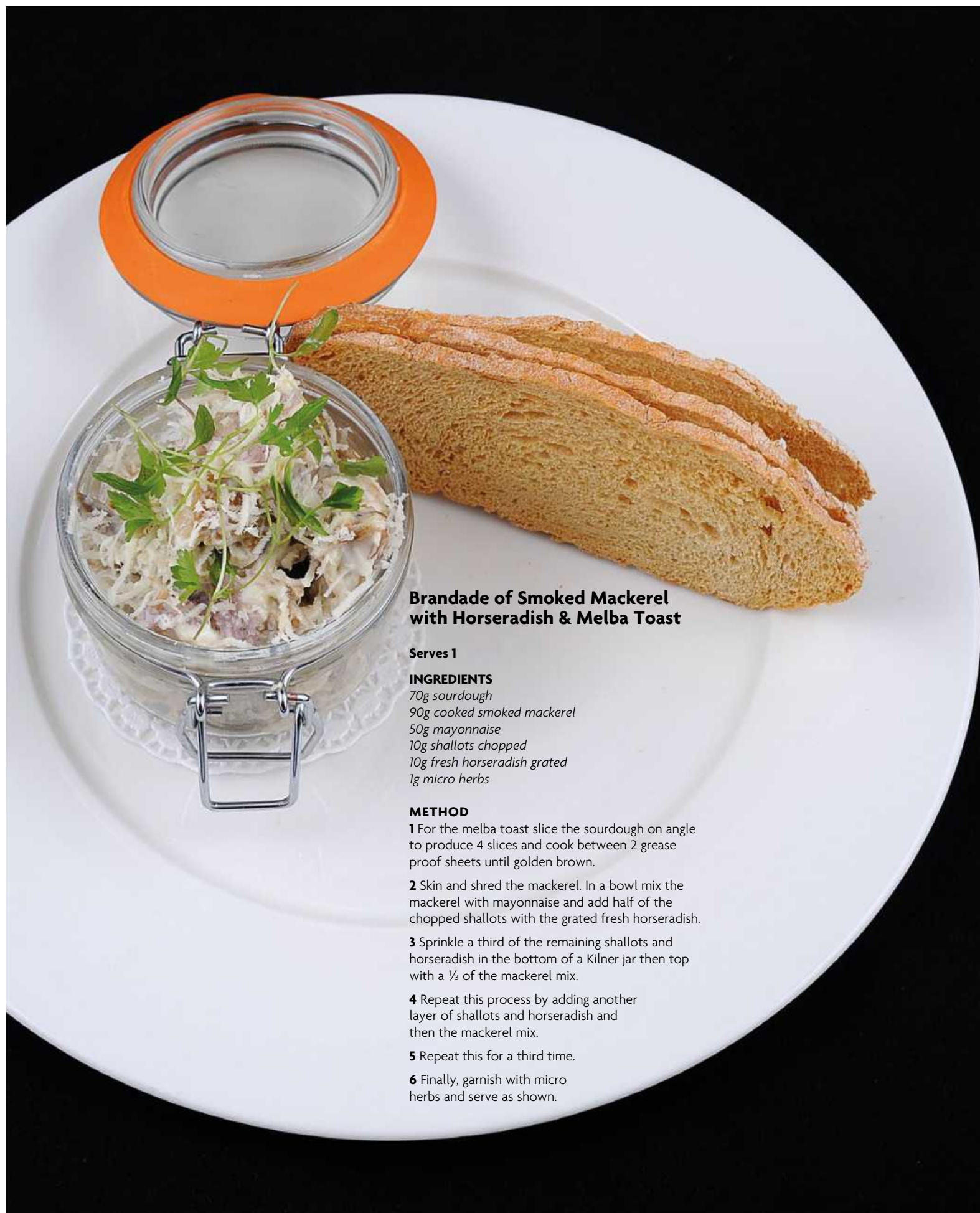
270g beetroot (cooked)  
40g goat's cheese  
10g candied walnuts  
2g micro watercress  
10ml walnut oil  
1g castor sugar  
10g Merlot vinegar

### METHOD

- 1 Slice the beetroot into very thin slices.
- 2 Then place beetroots on plate in concentric circles.
- 3 Crumble goat's cheese and add candied walnuts on top of the beetroot.
- 4 Mix your Merlot vinegar and walnut oil to create your dressing.
- 5 Drizzle this on top.
- 6 To finish, scatter micro cress over dish and serve as shown.







### **Brandade of Smoked Mackerel with Horseradish & Melba Toast**

**Serves 1**

#### **INGREDIENTS**

70g sourdough  
90g cooked smoked mackerel  
50g mayonnaise  
10g shallots chopped  
10g fresh horseradish grated  
1g micro herbs

#### **METHOD**

**1** For the melba toast slice the sourdough on angle to produce 4 slices and cook between 2 grease proof sheets until golden brown.

**2** Skin and shred the mackerel. In a bowl mix the mackerel with mayonnaise and add half of the chopped shallots with the grated fresh horseradish.

**3** Sprinkle a third of the remaining shallots and horseradish in the bottom of a Kilner jar then top with a  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the mackerel mix.

**4** Repeat this process by adding another layer of shallots and horseradish and then the mackerel mix.

**5** Repeat this for a third time.

**6** Finally, garnish with micro herbs and serve as shown.





## Macaroni of Lobster with Tarragon

**Serves 1**

### INGREDIENTS

½ lobster  
10 tarragon leaves  
140g macaroni cooked (small)

### Prep

Lobster Bisque 200ml  
Lobster Sauce 700ml

### Lobster Bisque

(Batch recipe - only use 200ml for lobster macaroni)

### INGREDIENTS

1 shell from lobster  
½ onion  
½ leek  
½ garlic clove  
½ carrot  
600ml fish stock  
2 bay leaves  
15g coriander seeds  
3 star anise  
10 parsley stalks  
15g tomato purée  
35g brandy  
30g butter  
25g flour  
50ml double cream  
3g salt

3g pepper

5g fish stock or use Knorr stock pots

### METHOD

**1** Blanch lobster in boiling salt water for 7 minutes and place in the fridge on its back to lock in taste.

**2** Once cooled, break the lobster separating the meat from the shell.

**3** Reserve the meat for the macaroni dish.

**4** Break shells into small pieces and fry in a hot pan with a little olive oil to remove the water.

**5** Add the brandy and flame but do not leave to burn too long.

**6** Add the chopped vegetables and spices.



## Sticky Toffee Pudding

**Serves 4**

### INGREDIENTS

50g butter, unsalted soft  
4g baking powder  
140g flour, self-raising  
1 egg  
80g sugar, dark brown  
120ml water  
120g pitted dates  
15g chopped dates  
1 tea bags

### METHOD

- 1 Boil water with pitted dates and tea bags.
- 2 Remove the tea bags and blitz date mixture to make a purée.
- 3 Cream together the sugar and the butter then slowly add the eggs and mix well.
- 4 Add baking powder and flour, mix well and add

the cold date purée, chopped dates and mix.

5 Pipe 140gm of mixture into moulds and bake at 160 degrees for 25-30 minutes.

6 Leave to cool.

### Butterscotch Sauce

#### INGREDIENTS

100g butter, unsalted  
100g castor sugar  
100g golden syrup  
25ml double cream

#### METHOD

- 1 Bring butter, sugar and golden syrup to the boil until sugar is dissolved then add cream.
- 2 Cover sticky toffee pudding in butterscotch sauce.

**Top Tip:** Add a scoop of vanilla ice-cream to make it that little bit special.



7 Cover with fish stock and add the tomato purée.

8 Simmer for 1 hour, then pass through a sieve and chill.

### Lobster Sauce

#### INGREDIENTS

550ml lobster bisque  
25g flour  
30g butter  
100ml cream

#### METHOD

- 1 Melt butter and add flour to make a roux.
- 2 Slowly add 550ml of the lobster bisque.
- 3 Cook out for 5 minutes then add your cream.

4 Finally pass through a sieve.

### METHOD FOR LOBSTER MACARONI

1 Heat up 200ml of lobster bisque.

2 Add 7 tarragon leaves cut length ways into threes and add to lobster sauce for 60 seconds to infuse.

3 Take 140gm of the cooked macaroni (approximately 6 minutes in heavily salted boiling water) and add to sauce.

4 Heat for one minute then add the portion of Lobster meat (½ of whole lobster) and fold through until hot.

5 Serve in a hot bowl and garnish with tarragon.

## COMPETITION

Ireland's Homes Interiors & Living Magazine together with the Park Avenue Hotel are offering one lucky reader the chance to win an overnight stay and meal for two in the Marco Pierre White Steakhouse Bar & Grill (up to the value of £100). Total prize value from £210.

Located in the Park Avenue Hotel, the Marco Pierre White Steakhouse Bar & Grill Belfast is the only Marco Pierre White restaurant in Northern Ireland. The glamorous décor combined with excellent food and expert service makes this restaurant the perfect choice for a first class dining experience.



### How to enter

Answer the following question:  
Where is the Marco Pierre White Steakhouse Bar & Grill Belfast located?

Send your answer, name, address, email and phone number marked **Marco Pierre White Steakhouse Bar & Grill Belfast** to Ireland's Homes Interiors & Living magazine, PO Box 42, Bangor, County Down, BT19 7AD or Ashgrove House, Kill Avenue, Dun Laoghaire, County Dublin or enter online at: [ihil.net](http://ihil.net)

*Entries must be received no later than 5pm, Friday 1st January 2016. One entry per household. One separate email/postcard for each competition. Judge's decision is final. No cash alternative. Prizes are non-transferable. Booking subject to availability. If you would like to receive our monthly Newsletter please include your email address with your entry.*



# food for Thought

Our new, regular food page serves up some tasty food and drink ideas for the New Year.

## Who's Cooking?

In 2016 discover the energising power of raw food with the help of Anya Ladra's new book, 'Raw Food Detox for Health and Vitality'. Revitalise and rejuvenate with more than 70 inspiring recipes to help kick-start a new, healthier you, including an easy five-day cleansing detox plan.



## Champagne Cocktail

A champagne cocktail is made with sugar, Angostura bitters, Champagne, brandy and a maraschino cherry as a garnish.

### INGREDIENTS

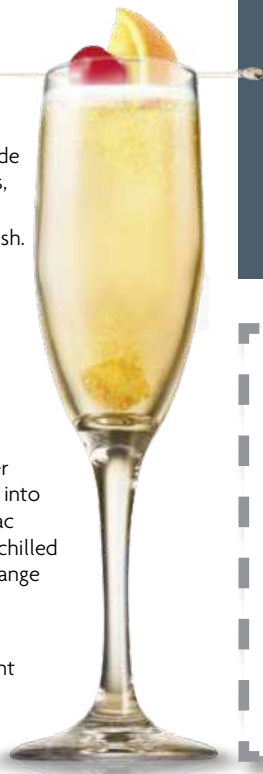
2 dashes Angostura bitters  
1/3 oz Cognac  
3 oz Champagne  
1 Sugar cube

### METHOD

Add dash of Angostura bitter onto sugar cube and drop it into champagne flute. Add cognac followed by gently pouring chilled champagne. Garnish with orange slice and maraschino cherry.

### SERVE

In a Champagne flute, straight up; without ice and garnish with a Maraschino cherry and orange slice.



## CHEF'S FAVOURITE

'I love chicken and leek pie just like my granny used to make it! There's no better winter warmer and it's a great way to use up any left over chicken (or turkey) and my homegrown leeks!'

**Niall McKenna, James Street South, Belfast**

## Newsflash!

Northern Ireland's Year of Food and Drink 2016 is a celebration of everything delicious about this place. The epic landscapes, traditions and people that make our food heritage so unique. With 366 days of foodie experiences, there will be no better time for visitors to enjoy a true taste of Northern Ireland. With monthly themes and key events already in the diary, the year is shaping up to be an extraordinary one.

For more information log on to [tourismni.com](http://tourismni.com)

## time to dine...

Just as our featured chef, Niall McKenna and one of his eateries, James Street South Restaurant won at the Georgina Campbell Awards 2016, here are a few other winning restaurants you might like to try.

**Taste at Rustic**, Dublin 2:

Dylan McGrath, Best Chef 2016

**La Côte Seafood Restaurant**, Waterford:

Best Seafood Restaurant of the Year 2016

**Maisons Restaurant**, Rostrevor:

Newcomer of the Year 2016

**Issacs Restaurant**, Cork:

Casual Dining Restaurant of the Year 2016

**Bodega Restaurant & Winebar**, Waterford:

Atmospheric Restaurant of the Year 2016

**RAW at Radisson Blue**, Galway:

Ethnic Restaurant of the Year 2016

## Eat well in 2016 with these kitchen essentials...



Enjoy your freshly squeezed juices in this glass mason jar with straw from **The Orchard**. £5. [theorchardhomeandgifts.com](http://theorchardhomeandgifts.com)

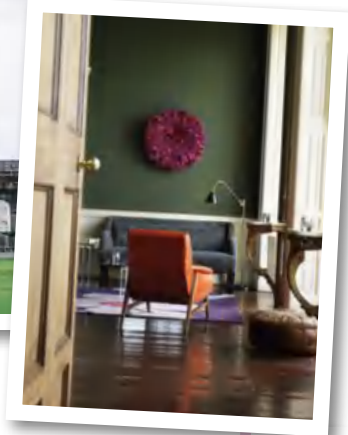


Manage what you are eating with this bone china portion plate from **Getting Personal**. £16.99. [gettingpersonal.co.uk](http://gettingpersonal.co.uk)

You won't struggle to get your five a day with Living Nostalgia's vintage blue juicer from **Kitchen Craft**. £29.95. [kitchencraft.co.uk](http://kitchencraft.co.uk)







# for the Ladies

Why not refresh this New Year with a luxurious, yet glamorous weekend escape to the country. Here are a few ideas to get you on your way!

*treat yourself...*

This month:

## Bellinter House, Co.Meath

### In Brief

A stately country retreat with stylish modern day décor and luxury spa.

### About

This gorgeous mansion turned contemporary luxe hotel, is less than an hour's drive from Dublin. It has a wonderful spa, The Bathhouse, which was the winner of 'Best Beauty Spa' and overall award for 'Excellence in Style' in the Meath Style Awards 2014, where you can relax with some well earned pampering. Dine in Eden the 2 AA Rosette award winning restaurant, and sister restaurant of Eden in Temple Bar. Menus are seasonal and the food is excellent. You can also dine in the Drawing Room and pay a visit to the Bellinter Bakery which sells homemade breads and desserts for guests to take home. You will enjoy exploring the grounds of the surrounding estate on foot or perhaps you would prefer a round of golf on the adjacent Bellinter Golf Course.

### Contact details

Meath 046 9030900.  
reservations@bellinterhouse.com  
bellinterhouse.com

## Wish list...

Here are a few weekend essentials for those New Year getaways.



Saint Laurent Cabas  
Rive Gauche Bag from  
Brown Thomas. €1,690.

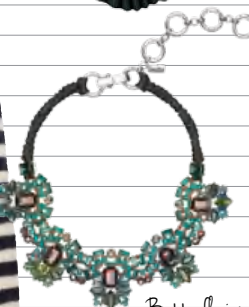
Khaki Freya shirt from Darling London. £65.



KISSING  
lipstick in Penelope Pink  
by Charlotte Tilbury.  
£23.



The Stripe Sleeve Aran Knit by & Daughter. £245. and-daughter.com



Butterfly jewellery  
statement necklace from Evelyn  
Brandt Belfast. £109.90.



## CULTURE CLUB

If the rain is pouring just make sure you have a good book to while away the hours beside an inviting fireplace at your weekend retreat! If you've yet to read it, '*Serena*' by Ron Rash, which is now a motion picture starring Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence, is set in 1930s North Carolina, and tells the story of newlywed couple Serena and George Pemberton and their timber business. With Serena proving to be a truly unique heroine!





Destination Ireland:

# The Aran Islands

The Aran Islands are a group of three islands on the west coast of Ireland in the middle of the Wild Atlantic Way. The islands are at the mouth of Galway Bay, in County Galway but are also accessible from Doolin which is beside the Cliffs of Moher in County Clare. The Three Islands are: Inis Mor (Inishmore), Inis Meain (Inishmaan), and Inis Oirr (Inisheer) and here you will find the traditional Irish way of life.



ABBEY ON INISHEER.



FERRY TO INISHMORE ISLAND.



## Things to see and do

The largest of the Aran islands is Inishmore with about 1,100 inhabitants. The island is characterised by numerous important Celtic Monuments and churches, miles of stone walls, abundant wildlife and eight kilometres of cliffs. The cliffs of Inishmore stretch along the entire western side of the island and form a spectacular sight. Most people who visit hire bikes and cycle around the island exploring the various sights.

The main village on the island is Kilronan. It is a lively little village, which is set on Kilronan harbour with its beautiful pier which lays berth to numerous yachts and fishing boats. Here you will also find Currach's which are traditional boats as well as Galway Hooker's which are also uniquely Irish boats. The village also is host to the Aran Sweater Market and has a small supermarket and a couple of traditional bars.

One of these sights is Dun Aonghas. Perched spectacularly on a cliff overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, it is the largest of the prehistoric stone forts of the Aran Islands and the views from here are truly spectacular. Archaeologists, scholars and tourists come here from all over the world and it is likely to be given the official status of a world heritage site in the near future. Most people cycle to Dun Aonghas from the pier and this cycle has become an attraction in itself due to the eclectic mix of attractions along the way.

Inishmore has recently been appointed a venue for the Red Bull Cliff Diving competition and has numerous quirky festivals throughout the year such as the Father Ted Festival in February. You will also find year round Traditional Irish Music in the local pubs. The other islands, Inishmaan and Inisheer, are even smaller, much less populated, and less touristic.



The Seal Colony has in recent times become one of the more popular attractions on Inishmore. It is located on the coastal road before Kilmurvey beach. On a good day, in this natural habitat with a favorable tide you will come across numerous seals bathing.

The Inishmore Puffing Holes are holes in the ground at the top of the cliffs and have tunnel like channels that lead down to the water. On days when the seas are rampant water will rush up and create a spray on the mainland in a similar fashion to the puffing of a whale.

Other sights to visit on Inishmore include Teampall Chiaráin and the Standing Stones, the Lighthouse and Dun Eochail, Dun Eoghanacht and Na Seacht dTeampaill (the Seven Churches).

The three islands are noted for their sandy sheltered beaches and interesting shorelines. On Inishmore there is a blue flag beach at Cill Mhuirbhig which is safe for swimming. In Inis Oírr there is an idyllic cove



DUN AONGHAS ON INISHMORE.



CLIFFS OF MOHER, CO. CLARE

at the main landing pier known as An Trá Mór (The Big Beach). In Inis Meáin there are numerous sandy coves. There are also storm and block beaches throughout the islands evidence of the power of the Atlantic.

## Eating & Drinking

In Ireland, there is never a shortage of places to eat and drink, and the Aran Islands are no exception.

The Bayview Restaurant in Inishmore is run by head chef and co-owner, Byron Godoy Flores and his wife Mary Carroll. Using his Latin roots as an inspiration for his food, Byron cannot be without his Guatemalan staples of lime, avocado, coriander and coconut. Although these ingredients are not as abundant in this part of the world, they are used in practically every dish and drink he creates, breathing life and colour into the flavours and presentation.



INISHEER LIGHTHOUSE.

Also located on Inishmore, Teach Nan Phaidi is a delightful restaurant serving delicious homemade food. A beautiful Irish cottage façade is mirrored inside with a wonderful country living room, specialities include creamy potato gratin and a large array of cakes and buns.

Tí Joe Watty's Bar in Kilronan, Inishmore also offers the perfect place to enjoy a pint of Guinness as well as some pub grub while enjoying some live music. Tí Joe Watty's is actually listed as one of the top ten venues in Ireland for traditional music session by 'Lonely Planet' Live Music Diary, offering live music every night in summer and weekends all year round. On Inisheer look out for Teach an Tae Aran Café & Tea Rooms, Tigh Ned pub, South Aran Restaurant, and The Seaweed café.

### Where to stay

Accommodation options for the three Aran Islands range from campsite accommodation to hostels, guest houses, B&Bs and hotels, whatever your budget allows.

Located on Inishmore, The Aran Islands Hotel is a charming three star hotel with 22 ensuite bedrooms, including five balcony rooms with spectacular views of Kileaney Bay and Kilronan Harbour.

Kilmurvey House offers B&B accommodation in the form of 12 ensuite rooms within an 18th century stone-built house on Inishmore. Once the family home of the 'Ferocious O'Flahertys' it is situated four miles from the ferry port of Kilronan and has been recently renovated to the highest standards while keeping the old style charm of the house.

Ard Einne guesthouse has been operating for over thirty years. This family run traditional cottage style B&B is renowned for its friendly

and relaxed atmosphere. Ard Einne is located on the east end of Inishmore, two kilometres from Kilronan village and 300m from Aer Arann Air field.

Hotel Inis Oirr on Inisheer is owned and run by the Flaherty family for 35 years. The hotel is situated close to a sandy beach and pier. As well as 14 ensuite bedrooms, there is a magnificent dining room overlooking O'Briens Castle.

### Getting there

You can travel to Inishmore by ferry or air from either Galway or Doolin.

Travel to Inishmore is by passenger ferry from Doolin in Co. Clare (seasonal) or Rossaveal in Co. Galway (all year). Sailings from Doolin can be subject to tides. Car ferries are not available to the Aran Islands. Travel time to Inishmore from Rossaveal is 40 minutes and from Doolin is about 90 minutes. Doolin to Inisheer is only about 25 minutes. Car parking is available at Rossaveal and Doolin. A shuttle bus to and from Rossaveal is available from Galway City.

Flights to the Islands are available from Aer Arann Islands at Inverin which is in Connemara and just outside of Galway.

### Essential Contacts

[aranislands.ie](http://aranislands.ie)

[visit@aranislands.com](mailto:visit@aranislands.com)

[aranislands.com](http://aranislands.com)

[aranislandferries.com](http://aranislandferries.com)



Destination Abroad:

# Transylvania

Go on a medieval adventure to Transylvania, where it's not all about vampires and werewolves! Soak up the myths and legends along with the breathtaking scenery of the surrounding mountains in this magical region of Romania.



## Things to see and do

Often viewed as a fictional place, Transylvania is in fact a very real destination situated in the central region of Romania. Renowned for its stories of vampires and Count Dracula, brought famously to life by Bram Stoker's 1897 novel, it is a land full of mystery and natural beauty. A visit to Bran Castle is a must, situated on the border between Transylvania and Wallachia; most commonly known as Dracula's Castle due to the distinct similarities portrayed in the Stokers' novel. Interestingly, despite the

popular knowledge that Dracula's home was based on this castle, there is no evidence that Stoker knew anything about this particular castle when writing the book - although it is thought that he used descriptive based on text about Bran Castle, with Count Dracula being controversially said to be based on the real life 15th century Romanian nobleman, Vlad The Impaler. Today the fortress is a splendidly preserved medieval structure that is now a museum full of artefacts and furniture that belonged to Queen Marie.



## DESTINATION ABROAD: TRANSYLVANIA

The castle is set in a charming park, perched on a rocky outcrop, where the queen used to walk and take her afternoon tea. You can explore the castle at your own leisure or take one of the guided tours to learn all about the myths and legends.

If you are a true Vlad fan, it is worth going to visit the ruins of his real once-upon-a-time home at Poienari Citadel in Wallachia. As it is now a ruin, it can be difficult to access by public transport.

Transylvania is remarked to be one of the last truly medieval landscapes, with hardwood forests, horse-drawn carts rumbling along dirt roads, lush pastures and wildflower meadows, you will feel as though you have been transported back 100 years. You can visit one of the resort towns within Transylvania which are famed for their therapeutic waters, due to the mineral mud and salty waters from Bear Lake in Sovata. Bathing in these springs are said to have many health benefits; from rumours of curing infertility, to cardiovascular benefits, and if nothing else it is surely relaxing.

If nature is your thing, why not visit the Carpathian Mountains, the home of wolves, lynx and the largest European population of brown bears. There are a number of hides which allow you to observe bears in the wild, with the guide of a ranger, including the popular Stramba Valley hide north of Zărnești. It is best not to wonder off in search for these wild animals on your own though! It is best to book a tour through a renowned company such as Transylvania Wolf. [transylvaniawolf.ro](http://transylvaniawolf.ro)

Transylvania has one of the most interesting roads, which is a major attraction to tourists outside of blood-sucking vampires. The Transfagarasan Highway is a twisting strip through the Carpathians, built originally as a strategic military route, which twists and turns across the tallest sections of the southern Carpathians. Any petrol heads will want to see this National-Road ranked highway.



The Transfagarasan Highway is a twisting strip through the Carpathians, built originally as a strategic military route, which twists and turns across the tallest sections of the southern Carpathians.







### Places to Eat & Drink

Crama Veche is a traditional Transylvanian restaurant with stone floors, wood carved tables and chairs with the menu reflecting the rustic charm of the interiors. You will find traditional Romanian dishes as well as shepherd's polenta, knuckle of pork and Saxon dishes such as schnitzel. You will find a unique experience at Crama Veche as well as a super tasty menu!

Explore Romanian fare at Crama Sibiul Vechi where you can sample local cheese croquettes, mince meatballs and peasant's stew with polenta. It is dimly lit in a rustic way, situated in an old wine cellar and staff dressed in traditional garb.

Il Caminetto is a brilliant live music pub where you will find traditional Romanian music, along with other European acts on the local music scene. Their vast drinks menu means you can sample lots of European drinks as well as your own favourites. This place offers a great friendly atmosphere and makes for a great night out.

### Where to stay

What better place to stay than a heir's house? Prince Charles liked Transylvania so much he bought a property in Viscri. The house was sensitively restored by Count Tibor Kalnoky with authentic antiques and textiles from the region. It is nestled deep in the Carpathian foothills, so guests can explore both the Saxon and the Szekler areas. You can book to stay in the Prince of Wales' accomodation through the Count's company. [transylvaniancastle.com](http://transylvaniancastle.com)

The House of Dracula is a 4\* hotel which mimics a majestic castle surrounded by nature. It is situated in the beautiful resort of Poiana Brasov. Here you can experience the myth of Count Dracula come to life, a fun and unique place to stay. The hotel also has a spa, the perfect way to relax and revitalise after a days site seeing. Breakfast is included with your stay. [house-of-dracula.com](http://house-of-dracula.com)



PHOTO BY ERWAN MARTIN



### How To Get There

Fly from Dublin with Ryanair.



# Cosy in the Garden

At this time of year, the only place we think of as being cosy is right beside the fireplace! However, this is the ideal time to put plans in place to enjoy your garden on warmer days.

BY DEIRDRE PRINCE



*Creating a space of tranquillity and calm in your garden will enhance your experience of serenity...*

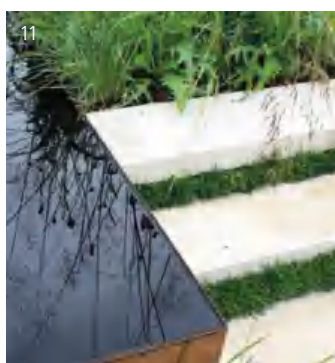
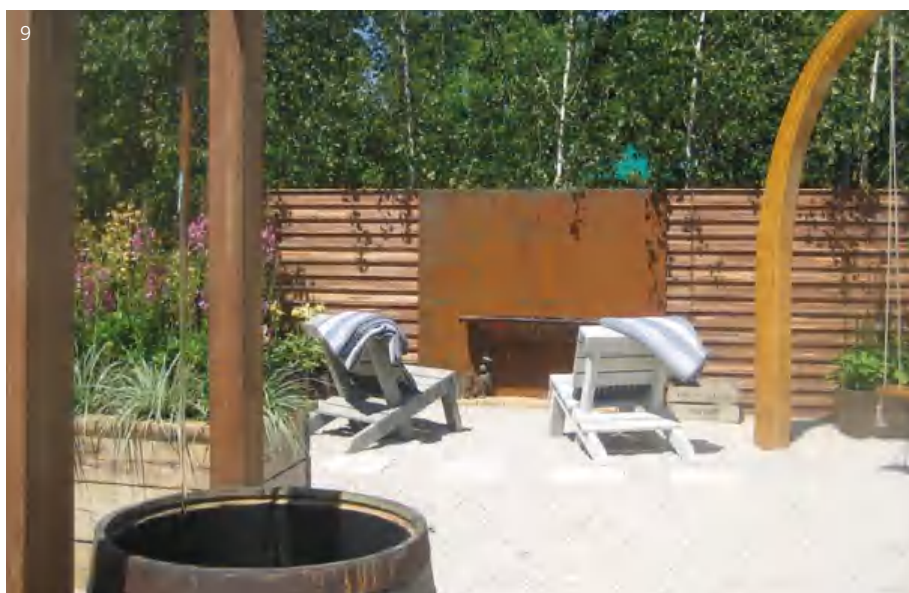


There's nothing as attractive in a garden than that special, quiet spot where you can retreat to and relax with a book, morning paper, cup of coffee or even a glass of wine. Creating a space of tranquillity and calm in your garden will enhance your experience of serenity, whether it's an elaborate garden room (**Fig.1**) or a space where you can have a cat nap, hidden among the planted borders (**Fig.2**).



### Things you can do to create a perfectly cosy space in your garden:

- Adding a pergola or canopy to your garden can provide shelter from the sun and it can also create a private and secluded hideaway. When you position planting above you, not only will it create a feeling of protection overhead but it can also produce the feeling of being in a hideout (**Fig.3**). There is nothing better than eating out in the garden in a place where you feel protected from the elements (**Fig.4**).
- Planting in your garden will soften the edges of any space, climbing over structures and along walls, creating cosy enclosures to otherwise hard spaces. Equally, larger shrubs and small trees can provide gentle framework to create a secluded enclosure, a cosy retreat for relaxation (**Fig.5**).



- Carefully positioned furniture in your garden will determine how you use your garden sanctuary space. Do you want to use this space to spend time on your own away from the hustle and bustle (**Fig.6**) or do you want to while away the hours with a few friends or family members (**Fig.7**)? This decision can dictate what furniture you require.
- Let's face it, we are not exactly blessed with balmy warm evenings in Ireland and one way of providing a warm space outside it to build a fire pit seated area. Prolonging the enjoyment of your garden into the night really needs a source of heat and sitting around a fire pit is reminiscent of campfires, invoking memories of camping holidays (**Fig.8**). You could even recreate your fireplace outside (**Fig.9**).
- Water features are a great addition to a garden refuge, whether it's the trickling sound of running water (**Fig.10**) or simply a flat pond that will reflect the movement of the clouds above (**Fig.11**). I think every garden should include some water, which is not only visually appeal but can have huge therapeutic benefits.

What ever size your garden, there's always a space that you prefer to sit in. Make that area a cosy spot by adding some of the elements listed above so that you'll want to use it throughout the year.

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MLA Dip Arch Tech MGLDA.  
Phone Dublin 01 6350032.  
Mobile: 087 9916961. [deirdreprice.ie](http://deirdreprice.ie)



Winner of gold medal and Best in Small Garden category in Bloom 2012 in conjunction with Patricia Tyrrell.



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# Style Icon



**Form Chair**  
**Normann Copenhagen**

**T**he name Form reflects the designer's inspiration, gathered from chair designs throughout history. With a soft silhouette that merges with a rigid Nordic wooden frame, Form is Normann Copenhagen's idea of the perfect chair.

In order to sit comfortably for long periods, people need freedom of movement. The Form rocking chair has a moulded plastic shell with a wide, curved seat, which gives plenty of opportunity to change one's sitting position. Designed by Simon Legald he said, 'I think that there is something unexpected and surprising about the combination of an industrial, plastic shell and the more traditional wooden rocking chair frame. The frame is extremely strong and has

been assembled by hand by furniture craftsmen who have ensured that the quality is the best possible. The parts for the wooden bases are treated with two coats of clear varnish before they are mounted onto the shell. This makes the frame extra hardwearing and offers a beautiful, natural surface.'

**Price:** £360/€460.

**Stockists:** Liberties, Westport 098 50273; Lost Weekend, Blackrock 01 2755818 and Ubode, Dublin 01 7755251. For further Irish stockists visit [normann-copenhagen.com](http://normann-copenhagen.com)



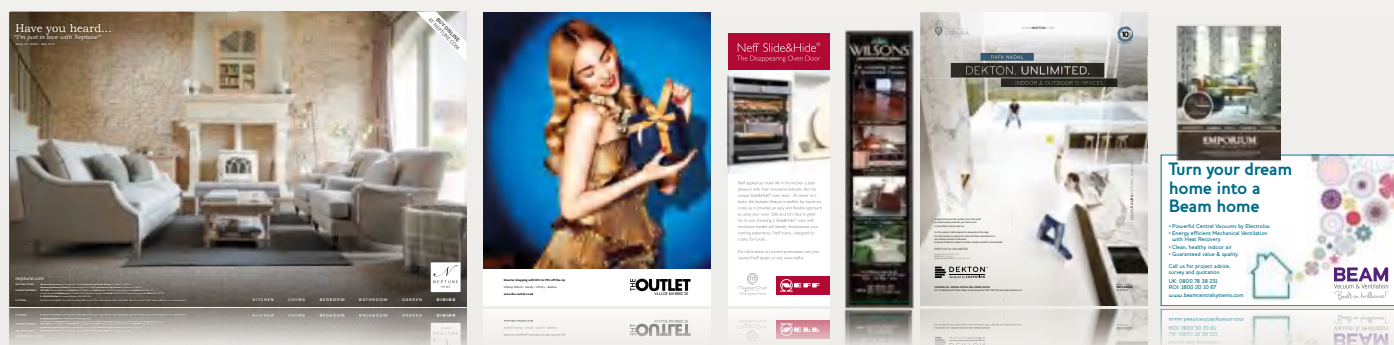


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